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The Highlander

Thursday June 26 2025 | Issue 695

INSIDE: HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS AND THE WEEKEND FREE

What a life

Brad Robinson reflects on a lifetime of memories made at the eponymous general store in Dorset, having recently celebrated his 90th birthday. See page 11 for the full story. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Couple caught in 'super scary' storm

By Lisa Gervais

Kathy Chatterton will always remember her birthday of 2025 – marked by a severe storm that took out her, and husband Jim's, trailer and truck.

The couple, from West Guilford, were at their annual gathering in Lake of Two Rivers in Algonquin Park when the storm hit Saturday night.

Jim said there'd been a rain advisory, but "it was good" until about midnight.

"The trailer started shaking like crazy, and then hail came, and then, all of a sudden, a tree crashed through our roof and basically smashed the ceiling down on top of us."

Jim said the two managed to crawl out, only to find a devastated site.

There were full trees crashed to the ground, along with fallen limbs. They knew their 35-foot trailer had been hit, but it wasn't until Jim went to the truck to get a flashlight that he noticed the full damage to the trailer, as well as their vehicle.

"A tree had also hit the front of the trailer and knocked the awning off, smashed the front of the trailer in, all the fiberglass was broken and the truck bed was just flattened.

"The tree had hit the truck bed first, then the trailer. Thank God for that or we'd be pancakes. That truck saved our butts."

Kathy said it all happened very quickly.

"We heard the wind, the trailer started shaking, the hail came, it wasn't even a minute."

Jim said he'd heard people describe weather

Continued **'Vicious'** on page 2

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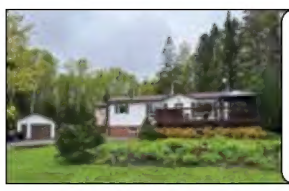

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"SPECIALIZING IN WATERFRONT PROPERTIES"

Jim and Kathy Chatterton's truck and trailer were damaged by a storm Saturday night in Algonquin Park. *Submitted.*

Vicious storm hits Algonquin Park region

Continued from pg 1

like that sounding like a locomotive. "It couldn't have been better of a description. It was the wind above the trees; it was just unreal. The sound was the scariest thing. It was out of this world."

Jim added the entire ordeal was "super scary, incredibly scary. It's a huge trailer, 35-feet long, and that trailer was just shaking like crazy from side to side."

After they got out of their trailer and did a preliminary assessment of the damage, Jim went to check on their friends, who had joined them for the weekend.

"Everybody was good, but the rain was unbelievable. The water was up past my ankles just walking on the main road."

Kathy said she did not know if Environment Canada had classified it a tornado, but Jim is convinced it was one. "And, we were lucky, really lucky."

A tow truck came to pick up the Chattertons and the damaged truck and trailer and they are safe at home, beginning insurance claims.

> *"The tree hit the truck bed first, then the trailer. Thank God for that, or we'd be pancakes. That truck saved our butts."*
>
> ***Jim Chatterton***

"It was so destructive," Jim said.

"Happy birthday to me," Kathy added.

Storm reports

On June 21, from about 9:45 p.m., reports of dangerous conditions were received from several areas.

The Ontario Provincial Police reported that two people camping in the northeastern part of Algonquin Park were impacted by Saturday night's storm when a tree fell, resulting in serious injuries to one person.

The injured camper was transported out of the park by a Ministry of Natural Resources float plane and taken to hospital for treatment, OPP said on Sunday.

Hwy. 17 was closed between Bonfield and Mattawa due to hazardous road conditions caused by the severe weather and downed trees. The Mike Rodden Arena in Mattawa was used as a shelter for anyone in need of a safe place to stay.

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Nelson leaving HHHS role

By Mike Baker

Almost two years to the day since joining Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) on an interim basis, president and CEO Veronica Nelson has announced she's stepping down from her position effective Sept. 5.

Nelson took the reins at HHHS during a difficult time, two weeks after the shuttering of the Minden ER. She set about righting the ship, changing the culture at HHHS and improving public relations through enhanced community engagement and planning.

Board chair Irene Odell said Nelson has been "a transformational figure," reducing the organization's reliance on agency staff by fostering a healthier, happier, work environment for existing staff and new hires.

She also oversaw a revamp of diagnostic services, successfully lobbying the Ministry of Health for approval of new CT and mammography units, which were paid for by the community and opened last year.

Recently, she played a key role in getting the conversation started on a long-term master plan, filing an application with the Ministry of Long-Term Care to expand Minden's Hyland Crest, and visited the Netherlands as part of a delegation exploring green care farms as an alternative model to supporting dementia patients.

"Veronica has guided the organization through a period of tremendous growth and renewal… her deep commitment to patient care and community health has led to the recruitment of new physicians and the formation of a strong and collaborative leadership team," Odell told *The Highlander.*

"It will be difficult to fill Veronica's shoes as she was a very impactful leader, but we are committed to finding a new leader to carry the positive momentum, building on the foundation she has put in place," she added.

Nelson will re-join Ross Memorial Hospital (RMH) in Lindsay, where she spent 25 years, mostly in diagnostic imaging, before leaving for HHHS in 2023. She spent time as Ross' interim president and CEO between 2019 and 2020.

Haliburton County deputy warden Liz Danielsen has gotten to know Nelson well over the past year through her role on the HHHS board, saying she was "terribly disappointed" to hear of the CEO's impending departure.

"Veronica has made so many positive changes since her arrival, working tirelessly and, to some extent, going a long way to healing the community's frustration over the loss of the ER," Danielsen said.

Despite leaving a sizeable hole, Danielsen said she isn't worried about Nelson's departure impacting the work already underway on strategic planning and long-term care expansion.

"I think she's got momentum going sufficiently and there will be people who can continue that process on all fronts. It might take a little bit longer, as we have to find a replacement, but I think we're on the right path," Danielsen noted.

HHHS president and CEO Veronica Nelson is leaving her position Sept. 5. *File.*

'Thank you Haliburton County'

Nelson said she has a lot to be grateful for. "My staff, our volunteers and the community who welcomed and trusted me to create a vision for health in the Highlands."

She recalled her first town hall, in June 2023, where she heard area residents didn't like the path HHHS was on. So, she went about changing it, creating an "open and transparent" process where people could express their concerns.

It was a similar story within the organization, with Nelson implementing new systems to improve worker morale. In April, she said a survey noted a 47 per cent improvement in staff satisfaction between spring of 2023 and 2025.

"Seventy-five per cent of our staff now rate HHHS as a great place to work – we know this has contributed to our ability to recruit and retain wonderful professionals," she said.

Nelson added watching the new CT scanner get wheeled through the front doors last summer is her best memory.

"Knowing just how much work was done to make this a reality… that's something that has been etched into my heart forever," she said.

Odell confirmed there is no succession plan currently in place, noting all applicants will be considered.

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Highlander news

HE to make STR addresses public

By Lisa Gervais

Highlands East is looking to move ahead with a short-term rental (STR) licensing dashboard – while hoping to avoid some of the flack Dysart et al received when they publicly posted information about STRs in their township.

Junior planner Kim Roberts presented a report to a June 17 council meeting, asking elected officials to direct staff to publish the interactive GIS Dashboard on the municipality's STR licensing webpage.

Dysart released its on May 12 and eventually all four townships are planning to do the same.

The dashboard shows the location of licensed STRs countywide.

Roberts said, given the concerns raised after Dysart et al released its map, staff wanted to bring information on the map, its purpose, and relevant information about personal privacy to councillors.

She said under the Municipal Act, townships are allowed to both issue licences and licence details may be posted on the municipality's website.

She said most cottage country municipalities that licence STRs provide a list or map, including Tiny Township, Huntsville, Ramara, Bracebridge and Lake of Bays.

She said staff see three benefits.

"It allows the travelling public to quickly and easily confirm that the STR they are intending to book has a valid licence; provides residents with a resource to know whether or not a STR being operated in their neighbourhood is licensed and is in compliance with the requirements for fire safety, parking, and septic capacity; and allows prospective purchasers in a neighbourhood or lake to know if there are any/many STRs in the area before purchasing."

Roberts said staff have received feedback from operators and the public with concerns about personal privacy and security, and indicated they would complain to relevant privacy bodies.

Highlands East mayor Dave Burton said having the township post STR addresses helps to promote them. *File.*

She said the Privacy Commissioner's Office (IPC) decisions "have long recognized that information required for business licensing is not considered private or personal information, even if that business relates to the individual's dwelling."

Roberts added land ownership information in Ontario is not private information, and can be accessed via the Ontario Land Registry Office, and people can look at roll books at township offices for MPAC ownership information for free.

"The STR dashboard will only provide a STR licence number and a civic address," she said. Roberts added although many municipalities provide identifying information of the 'responsible person' for licensed premises, enabling direct contact by the public, staff have opted to direct complaints or concerns to the 24/7 hotline or complaints dashboard so only an address or licence number is required to process a complaint or concern.

She said some operators are worried about being targeted by thieves or people not supportive of STRs. She said staff could find no evidence of this.

Roberts said there is a small body of research that demonstrates the presence of STRs in a neighbourhood can increase crime, but mostly in urban areas. Theories around cause include neighbours not knowing one another, eroding the community's ability to police itself, increased traffic and a transient population.

"Staff are of the belief that disclosing the locations of licensed STR accommodations will foster trust and transparency in the neighbourhoods where these operations are situated."

Mayor Dave Burton said if people are properly licensed, he would think they would want the address public for promotion.

Coun. Cec Ryall said several STR operators had contacted him. He anticipates "kick back." He asked for even more information before they go live. Roberts said once the site is ready – they hope for the end of the first week in July - staff would be happy to circulate a private link ahead of time to councillors, and do a demonstration at the July 15 meeting.

CAO Brittany McCaw said they could also alert the public it's coming, with relevant information on why they are allowed to do it.

Roberts said they had 66 applications to date, 33 approved, four rejected, and 26 pending. She added they had collected $8,487.18 in MAT tax; and $33,000 in licensing fees.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- June 26 – Regular Council Meeting
- July 31- Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

DROP-IN PROGRAMS

New Summer drop-in program schedule available online at www/mindenhills.ca/recreation and at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Summer schedule will begin on Monday June 30th.

REPORTING ISSUES

Reporting issues such as road condition or maintenance needs can be done by calling 705-286-3144 Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. After hours emergencies can be reported by calling 1-866-856-3247.

HAPPY CANADA DAY!

The following Township of Minden Hills offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 to celebrate Canada Day.

- Municipal Administration Office (7 Milne St.)
- Fire Hall Administration Office (12418 Hwy. 35)

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre and SG Memorial Arena will be open with a variety of activities – featuring inflatable bouncy castles, Kawartha Dairy Ice Cream, Super Dogs, and more! See separate ad for details. All waste disposal sites will be open and will operate on regular hours. Our offices and facilities will resume regular hours on Wednesday, July 2, 2025. Visit www.mindenhills.ca for more information.

CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING EVENT THIS WEEK

June 28, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Scotch Line Landfill. Bring your sensitive documents to be safely shredded on-site — no need to remove staples. We're also collecting donations for the Minden Community Food Centre: Non-perishable food items, toiletries, and monetary donations welcome. Protect your privacy and give back to the community.

LAST CHANCE TO VIEW EXHIBIT

It is the last week to view *We Were Taught Differently (Bakaan nake'ii ngii-izhigakinoo'amaagoomin)* an exhibit created by The MUSE (Kenora, Ontario). The exhibit examines the residential school experience and the long-term effects on First Nations people. Powerful images, text, video, archival material, and personal recollections combine to teach visitors why the schools were established, what life in the schools was like, the legacy of the schools, the recent settlement agreement, and Government and church apologies. The exhibit closes on June 28.

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Staff sergeant Deb McClure is the new OPP detachment commander for the Highlands. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Policing dream comes true

By Lisa Gervais

OPP officer Deb McClure will always remember the call; to a report of a 17-year-old male drowning.

Driving to the location, she was picturing a teen flailing in the water. She arrived to a pond on a rural property where members of a large Mennonite family yelled, "our brother is in the water."

She didn't see him. Not thinking to remove her heavy gear, she jumped into the water. Nothing. Her clothes and equipment started dragging her down. She felt like she was going to drown at one point.

Back-up arrived. She was able to strip off some of the weight and was tied off from shore. She dove in again, this time finding the boy. She brought him back to the surface.

"We did revive him, but then, unfortunately, about three days later, he passed away." She received a Commissioners Citation for Bravery award.

McClure is seated at her desk at her new job: detachment commander for the Haliburton Highlands OPP.

"I definitely realize I have a lot to learn as a commander, but I can relate to the guys," McClure says. "I'm okay to share those adversities I've been through. It's not an easy career. I think the fact I'm able to talk at their level … I've had to take a knee before, I've seen some bad things; I think my openness and genuineness with individuals, that's a skill."

She said when she joined the police force more than 20 years ago, officers didn't talk about mental health, or the need for self-care. She said she was told, 'you shut up, and you suck it up'. "And that's what you did …to my own detriment. It came to a boiling point numerous years later. Now, I just want to remind my guys it's okay to talk about it. I'll share my journey."

She hopes to extend those people skills to community members, too. "I can't wait to get settled and actually out and be involved off-duty. It's not just going to be a job for me. I think that's what I'll bring to the table. The other stuff I can learn. I can learn to write a report…"

She has come from the South Bruce OPP detachment, where she was detachment manager. She began her career with the Toronto Police Service in 2002.

Cottage country posting

As a teen, McClure grew up in Bancroft, where her family had a motel – so she knows about living, and working, in cottage country.

"I spent every summer up in this area and just loved it. I basically said after that 'I'm going to live there one day'."

That opportunity presented itself earlier this year with Mike Cavanagh leaving the detachment.

"When I finally did bring it (the idea) home and started talking about it with my children and my partner, the very next day I went onto our site for jobs, and it (the Highlands post) was there and I thought, 'this is my dream, I'm going to go for it'."

She likes that it is "a very junior detachment." She did some homework and came up to spend a few days with Cavanagh.

"I liked that I was going to have a challenge of recruiting people here because I do really feel as soon as you get here, it's a hidden gem. It is beautiful here, Haliburton, Minden, it's all gorgeous."

It's early days, less than a month, and McClure said she is watching, observing and listening. She said the team is "very keen and eager and they're out there. I would love more community engagement but, again, the issue with a smaller detachment is there's calls to be done."

Asked about a bit of a "revolving door" with commanders in the Highlands, McClure said one never knows what the future holds, including her personal life, or OPP plans for her.

However, "all I can say to you, community members and my family here now is that I have moved. I am four hours from my dad and sister, my (grown up) kids…I'm invested that way. I have less than seven (years to go) and I'd like to retire here, but I can't promise that. I have no control."

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Andrew Fletcher chairs a police detachment board meeting. *Photo by Lisa Gervais*.

Detachment board welcomes OPP billing review

By Lisa Gervais

Members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP Detachment Board expressed interest, at their June 18 meeting, in a provincial government OPP billing review.

Members appeared to be unaware of the review that was announced May 22.

However, it was mentioned during a delegation from the municipal policing bureau.

In a letter to impacted mayors and CAOs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) said the Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN) had announced the review, which is expected to be finalized in time for the issuing of 2026 annual billing statements, and opportunities for engagement with municipalities in June.

AMO posted the news to its website May 23 saying, "AMO understands the impact of rising police costs on municipalities across Ontario, including both those with OPP and municipal police services. AMO looks forward to working closely with SOLGEN on this review and putting it within the context of the need to reform the broader provincial-municipal fiscal relationship."

Lisa Rotar and Janet Feaver, municipal policing specialists for the Central Region, came to the board meeting to discuss a myriad of OPP information, including annual billing statements.

Member Liz Danielsen queried billing costs per household, due to the large seasonal population in the County.

"This is something that Haliburton County has made significant arguments about in the past when the billing formula was changed. Although the bill is x amount of dollars per household, we're unique in that half of our households are seasonal and they don't require the same level, I believe, of service, but no adjustments are made for what's required for service. MPAC knows how many seasonal residents (there are). I don't understand why they're all billed at the same amount."

Rotar then mentioned the review, noting last year a large discount was given. She added OPP have no say over billing, but it is a SOLGEN decision. She suggested local municipalities provide feedback to the ministry this month.

Danielsen replied, "we made some significant arguments in the past (that were) completely ignored." She said she would like to put faith that the County's concerns will be considered in the review. "Residing two to three months a year versus 12 is considerably different."

Member Bob Carter agreed, saying there are more than 7,000 properties in Minden, but fewer than 7,000 people. "Everyone in Minden has more than one house according to the regulations.

"In our base service, we're paying more than we are getting, and even having the potential to get. The numbers are huge for us. You are our largest single supplier, at $2 million. It's a lot of money. This would make a significant change. This is something that really needs to be addressed. We cannot continue to support this type of a situation. Your costs go up every year. Our ability to continue to pay this, unfair model, is not sustainable. It's not a minor thing. It's big."

Rotar said OPP recover costs, and don't make money on the essential service, "we provide when needed, there, readily available. It is a big bill to pay but it's essential."

She reiterated they've heard from other municipalities with the same concerns which is why the review is underway. She said they convey issues to the province, but the County should too.

OPP in schools

Rogan added OPP have recognized they need more staff and are recruiting.

Member Walt McKechnie said he would like more police presence in schools.

"We don't talk about our youth enough." He said young people need to gain a respect for police, who can educate them on the pitfalls of drugs.

Detachment commander Deb McClure agreed, saying the OPP school resource officer is returning after a hiatus. "I agree, Walt, it is very near and dear to my heart, too." She'd like a presence, even for evening events, and to do recruiting nights at the high school. However, she said staffing is tight in small detachments such as Haliburton, so it is a balancing act.

As McClure presented the statistics for March to May, Carter said in future he would prefer she highlight worrying trends.

And member, Andrew Hodgson, talked about allocation of resources, asking, for example, why OPP would be out on the water on a Wednesday, when few boaters are on the lake, when "kids in high school are selling drugs. Allocation of resources… the best way of spending our policing dollars. Bang for the buck is critical to our citizens."

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 24.

...JOIN THEM AT thehighlander.ca

Helen Parker is still demanding answers about pesticide spraying last week. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Resident angered by pesticide spraying

By Lisa Gervais

Helen Parker returned to her Hwy. 118 home June 17 to find a sign by her driveway warning that pesticides had been sprayed by Fowler Construction.

When she got out of the truck, she said she could smell and taste the chemical.

"Under the back of my tongue, I could feel a sensation. It is deeply offensive to me that, without notice, without scientific justification, without due diligence, a toxic pesticide was sprayed in the vicinity of my home and sensitive waterways," she said.

Parker said the back of the sign gave no indication of why the spraying had been done, or what had been sprayed.

When she called Fowler's 1-800 number on the sign, she claimed she was told they used Roundup - sprayed for phragmites, and ordered by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO).

Parker said they have a pond on their property and there are wetlands next to the highway. She added a large culvert allows water to flow to a tributary that feeds into local lakes. She added their home has been identified as a significant painted turtle and snapping turtle breeding area.

"A two-kilometre stretch both east and west of our home sees a waterway in most parts of the ditch on both sides of the highway. I have seen many dead turtles due to traffic hits. The last thing these turtles need in peak breeding season is Roundup," Parker said.

She claimed there are "zero significant phragmites" in the waterway on their property, but said there are phragmites towards Carnarvon, some 10kms away.

A spokesperson for the MTO told *The Highlander* June 24 the ministry "has an established program to control invasive species along provincial highways to limit the spread of phragmites through a combination of herbicide application and plant cutting when conditions permit." She added that when working in areas where invasive phragmites are present, their contractors must implement several environmental protection measures as detailed in the 2025 Environmental Guide for Managing Invasive Phragmites.

She said ministry staff confirmed the contractor complied with regulations. "Spraying was completed within the ministry highway right-of-way to control vegetation growth and improve sightlines to ensure the safety of all road users. No spraying occurred within 15 metres of a waterway."

However, she added, "the contractor has been reminded that all signs must be properly filled out. Ministry staff will be monitoring for compliance."

Connor Frazer, an environmental compliance officer for the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks in Peterborough, said on June 24, the ministry had not received public complaints about the spraying, or Fowler Construction.

"Although we cannot speak to the requirements and work ordered by the Ministry of Transportation, we can confirm the contractor has a valid Pesticide Operator Licence and licensed exterminators on staff to conduct roadside spraying. There are legislative exemptions for notification requirements when spraying roadside ditches for road maintenance. Ministry staff will follow up with Fowler Construction to discuss product(s) used and their application practises," he said.

But Parker remains adamant pesticides should not have been sprayed.

"It's sad that the first go-to is to spray poison near wetlands before asking is this necessary?

"My photos of dead vegetation show they did, in fact, spray within 15 metres of a wetland. For years, people thought asbestos was a terrific building product - now we know otherwise. Roundup is toxic - that's why they erected the signs."

Carolyn Langdon of Haliburton County Master Gardeners said it seems early in the year to be applying herbicide. "It is done before the grasses set seed. I hope it wasn't a windy day or a hot day as this affects the uptake of the herbicide.

"Herbicide application in sensitive habitats should be restricted to late summer through to early fall. This timing coincides with senescence of most native plants and reduced activity of native wildlife and species-at-risk and allows for the herbicide to be translocated into the root system."

She added, "HCMG agree that spraying in wetland areas needs to be assessed and done with great care. Applying herbicide in these habitats should be the last option of treatment. Plants can become resistant to herbicides so if herbicides are to be used, it is important that it is done properly."

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Audited Circulation 8,871 (Jan 1 - June 30, 2017)
Canadian Media Circulation Audit - Canadian Community Newspapers Association

We acknowledge and appreciate financial assistance from the Government of Canada

Time to fix OPP billing

By Lisa Gervais

While Haliburton County's four townships got a break on OPP billing for 2025, it's somewhat of an unknown what the price tag will be for 2026.

The provincial government announced last month it is launching an OPP billing review.

In a letter to impacted mayors and CAOs of Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East and Minden Hills, the Ministry of the Solicitor General said it's looking into the OPP cost recovery model.

The review is expected to be finished for the issuing of 2026 annual billing statements, with opportunities for engagement with municipalities until the end of this month.

We understand the impact of rising police costs on our – and other Ontario municipalities – especially smaller and rural ones.

We've been reporting on the issue for years. Remember when a new model took effect in 2015 for five years? In Minden Hills, for example, the bill rose more than $260,000 in 2015; followed by another $391,000 increase the following year. Incidentally, $391,000 translates to a 6.24 per cent increase in the tax levy, passed on to taxpayers. The township of the day passed a resolution calling for a review then.

The situation has not changed.

Essentially, here's the crux. Because seasonal residences qualify as households for OPP police billing purposes, cottaging communities, such as Minden Hills, and the three other lower-tier townships that comprise Haliburton County, are getting hammered hard.

The current billing model has also been panned for being complex, lacking transparency, and resulting in significant cost variations for municipalities of similar size and needs.

Lisa Rotar and Janet Feaver, municipal policing specialists for the Central Region, came to the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment board meeting June 18 to share a myriad of OPP information, including about annual billing statements. They mentioned the solicitor general review.

Board member Liz Danielsen noted Haliburton County has been banging the drum for a need to change billing around seasonal dwellings for years. She said she doesn't believe those residents need the same level of service when they only live here three months of the year, not 12. She suggested it's not hard to find the numbers since MPAC knows how many seasonal residences there are. As for the ongoing review, Danielsen was pretty spot on - saying the County's arguments have fallen on deaf ears. We can only hope the ministry listens this time around.

And, as board member Bob Carter said, we're not talking trifling numbers. In Minden Hills, for example, they are looking at a $2 million-a-year bill, the largest they'll pay anyone.

It's a lot of money and a review that takes into account seasonality could save us, the taxpayers, a boatful of money.

Our townships, with a limited residential tax base, and nearly non-existent commercial and industrial ones, simply can't afford the cost of OPP billing as it is now.

Of course, policing is just the tip of the iceberg. There is a need to reform the broader provincial-municipal fiscal relationship. This means addressing the imbalance that now sees our municipalities shoulder significant costs for provincial programs, particularly in areas such as housing and healthcare, while facing stagnant or inadequate funding.

A big loss

By Mike Baker

I usually roll my eyes whenever I see a headline about a public sector executive moving on to greener pastures, but this week's news that Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) president and CEO Veronica Nelson is leaving made me sit up and take notice.

Described as a "transformational" leader by HHHS board chair Irene Odell, Nelson arrived in the County during an especially difficult period. The hospital's previous administration had overseen the closure of the Minden ER, on June 1, 2023, but not once did they come forward to face the public and explain the decision.

Instead, that was left to Nelson, who, just days into her new job, was thrust on-stage to face a justifiably angry mob of locals demanding answers. Talk about a baptism of fire.

While Nelson didn't have the kind of explanations people were looking for, she didn't duck a single question. She did what she could to detail what had happened and why, despite being nowhere near the decision. It was an impressive display of leadership.

A few weeks later, Nelson was the first person with a HHHS affiliation to admit the organization had made a mistake in the way it went about and communicated the decision. She vowed that, moving forward, hospital leadership would change the way it engages with the community.

Since then, HHHS has launched public campaigns seeking feedback on master planning and future priorities. There's been engagement on how to best utilize space at the Minden Health Hub.

Nelson played a pivotal role in HHHS partnering with the North Kawartha Family Health Team to open the urgent care clinic in Minden. She prioritized improving services at the Haliburton hospital, overseeing the arrival of CT and mammography services last year. And she's helped improve the culture, with a recent survey revealing 75 per cent of staff rate HHHS as a great place to work – a 47 per cent improvement from before she arrived.

Within 18 months, she also helped bring HHHS back into the black, eliminating the $4.2 million deficit she inherited.

All my encounters with Nelson over the past two years have been positive. One of the first things she told me after we were introduced is that I can reach out with questions anytime and she'll do her best to respond. She might be the first public sector employee I've dealt with in my 13-year career to honour that.

All of that to say, Nelson will be sorely missed when she vacates her position Sept. 5.

The pressure is on now for the HHHS board to find the right replacement. With plans to expand and centralize the County's public long-term care system in Minden, there will be lots of big decisions to come over how to best utilize the space that currently houses Highland Wood.

To ensure the organization doesn't go backwards, we need a leader who's quick on their feet, with serious critical thinking skills, who can stand in front of people and have difficult conversations. Someone who inspires confidence.

This is a decision the HHHS board needs to knock out of the park. The future direction of our public healthcare system literally depends on it.

One thing we don't want to see, however, is this move laying the foundations for a regionalized approach to healthcare. While HHHS and Lindsay's Ross Memorial Hospital – where Nelson is taking over as president and CEO – share laboratory and IT services, our local service must retain its autonomy to ensure future decisions are County-focused.

Odell said Nelson leaving for Ross will not "change our path at HHHS." Here's hoping that rings true.

THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Highlander opinion

LETTERS

Letter was mean-spirited

Dear editor,

Re. letter of June 19 re: Time needed to understand Strong Mayor's Act.

I watched the May 29 meeting of Minden Hills council, and all six Minden Hills councillors, including the deputy mayor, addressed our mayor in opposition to the Better Municipal Governance Act 2022, more commonly known as the Strong Mayor Powers Act.

It appeared our councillors had studied and understood the impact in other municipalities and how this authoritarian power has cost some municipalities hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars (see the Orillia example) and undermined the democratic process expected of our elected officials. At no time did any councillor stomp their feet or act like a toddler.

The people of Minden Hills democratically elected seven politicians; one of whom is to be mayor. A mayor who utilizes this power is stating that the rest of the council is not respected, valued, or trusted. A simple resolution will delegate authority back to the whole council, as has happened in many municipalities already.

For the author of the letter of June 19 to single out coun. Tammy McKelvey was a mean-spirited and targeted attack on a councillor who has a history of municipal knowledge and experience, proves her worth by being best prepared to discuss municipal issues, and is present at most community events to lend a real hand where needed.

Yes, she is passionate about her responsibility, as I hope all our councillors are. I am disheartened to see the author join the population who believe personal harassment and verbal abuse are the way to address our elected officials. No wonder no one wants to be in politics.

Yes, watch the meeting and observe how our elected officials try to appeal for the restoration of democracy in Minden Hills.

Jeanne Anthon
Minden Hills

Rotary needs your charge

Dear editor,

We live in an age where everyone uses credit and debit cards, Apple watches and phones, and cell phone wallets to purchase most everything.

There is, however, a lost and used cash drawer in every home. In it, are lost and forgotten pennies. nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies and toonies. These coins now sit untouched and unused for long periods of time. They are taking up space. It is rumoured that the Canadian penny will soon no longer be an acceptable currency.

On the occasion that you pull a $20 bill from your wallet and give it to a merchant to buy something, there is change that finds its way to your pockets. When you get home and you empty your pockets, think to yourself what do I do with this change? I put it into a jar. I put it into a bowl on my bureau or I leave it with my keys at the front door.

Minden Rotary is asking you to gather up these coins from these various sources and donate them to Rotary. The cash and money that we are able to gather from those jars and bowls and key containers next to the door, we will spend it on our community.

At the Minden Hills Canada Day celebrations, the Minden Rotary celebrity clowns will be travelling through the crowd with a wagon with a big red nose or will be in the parking lot in front of Minden Auto Care. We invite you to come with your lost lonely pennies and coins to put into our big red noses. Thank you to our Haliburton Highlands community for not only supporting and giving energy to our Canada Day celebration, but also contributing in a fabulous way to allow Rotary to put money back into the community.

Sally Moore
Minden Rotarian

Don't dictate my ride

Dear editor,

Prime minister Mark Carney wants to ban all gas-powered vehicles by 2035.

Instead, he is pushing for electric vehicles to be mandated. Since when does a politician dictate to me and any other Canadian as to what type of vehicle one can own?

It appears as if things are being done without public consultation and in an under-handed manner. The prime minister has no idea how the average Canadian is going to pay for said vehicle, especially for those on fixed incomes.

Prime minister Carney is working in a void without a budget in hand. Canadians have no idea where Canada stands and yet Carney is making all kinds of deals without a breakdown as to how these deals are going to be paid.

I wonder if Carney is going to introduce some form of a carbon tax even though he campaigned against it. I do not trust him and find he is very sneaky.

Carney left the UK and I wonder if that was on good terms. He is also far too friendly with U.S. president Donald Trump, which will be a no-win for Canada. Needless to say, I did not vote for Carney and the only good thing is he does not have a majority government so perhaps the Conservatives can intervene when required.

Beverly MacDuff
Gooderham

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

What's good for the goose is good for the Merganser. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

'Born in a thunderstorm ... been a storm ever since'

By Susan Tromanhauser

Turning 90 is certainly a milestone worth celebrating. Betty Douglas is so loved by so many that her 90th birthday was celebrated often and in many different ways.

Her birthday, on Sunday, July 15, began at St. George Anglican Church where it was discovered she shared a birth date with Deacon Glenda Burk. What Douglas thought was a rendition of happy birthday for the deacon, became a congregation-wide sing-along for Douglas. Many in the congregation commented they knew it was Douglas' birthday because they heard birthday greetings on CanoeFM.

Her birthday celebration was then transported to her son's backyard in Barrie; a Father's Day garden party transformed into a family gathering to celebrate Douglas' 90th. The celebration included a surprise guest, Theresa Sealy from Agincourt, Douglas' friend since they were both seven years old.

Assuming birthday celebrations were finished, Douglas returned to Haliburton to her usual routines. Imagine her surprise when she turned on the television for the expected 6:15 p.m. weather report only to see her own picture transmitted across the screen. The CTV News Barrie weatherman was reporting Douglas' 90th birthday to all of his viewers. Douglas now feels like a celebrity with "happy birthday" and "I saw you on TV" conversation starters wherever she goes throughout Haliburton.

Douglas credits her family and many friends for the numerous birthday greetings. Born and raised in Toronto, Douglas spent her working career in the hospitality business, completing a degree in hotel management from Ryerson University (now TMU). She moved to Haliburton in 1968 when she purchased Deer Lodge and Haliburton became home. A brief attempt to move back to Toronto was short-lived and she returned to Haliburton because "this is where my heart is." While one son lives nearby, the other in Barrie, Douglas also has two grandsons, one in Sudbury and one in Brantford. She is hoping there will be a great-grandchild one day and "wouldn't it be wonderful if it was a girl."

A widow for 32 years, Douglas still lives independently in her own home on Wonderland Road. She makes time to visit friends, especially Dorothy Fair at Extendicare. There, they enjoy playing cards, particularly bridge, euchre and her own version of golf. Douglas is still a busy, exuberant woman. She reminisces her father often told her she was "born in a thunderstorm and has been a storm ever since." Douglas credits good genes for her longevity as her mother lived to 93. But her enthusiasm for life she credits to indulging in treats, "but not every day."

Douglas appreciatively points out the many framed certificates commemorating her birthday from MP Jamie Schmale, MPP Laurie Scott, and premier Doug Ford. Mark Carney also sent his regards, but Douglas put his greetings at the end of the shelf as "he has only been prime minister for two minutes." Douglas looks forward to recognition from King Charles, but acknowledges she won't be receiving his certificate until she celebrates her 100th birthday.

Betty Douglas just turned 90. *Submitted.*

Highlander news

Students to bee immersed in nature

By Mike Baker

There will soon be a new nature-focused feature greeting people as they arrive at Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES) – and it has the entire school community abuzz.

The Minden facility recently secured Bee School status, following in the footsteps of its home township, which was named a Bee City in April 2024. ASES parent council member, Aurora McGinn, said the designation has been in the works since last fall.

"There were some really mature white pine trees cut down in the school's parking lot last year – they were danger trees, so it had to be done, but the parent council really started talking about how we might beautify the area," McGinn told *The Highlander*. "The purpose of the school council is to enhance student achievement. So, we began to think about how we can make this area pretty while also encouraging education."

They landed on establishing a pollinator garden where the trees had once stood. It will be divided into two sections, with room for future growth. McGinn said the idea is for ASES to utilize the space during class time and after school.

"We want to put in native plants, which will help maintain biodiversity and balance the eco-system. ASES students are already connected to the environment in so many great ways, so this will be just another avenue for them to nurture that relationship, to get their hands dirty, have an outdoor classroom and get connected with nature," McGinn said.

Aurora McGinn, Marina McGowan, Holly Carpenter, Jaime Bilodeau, Angela Pilgrim and Kevin Buchanan will assist with the pollinator garden at ASES. *Submitted.*

"Hopefully, we'll provide them with the tools they need to create their own gardens at home – whether now, or when they're older," she added.

Key pollinators include bees, hummingbirds, beetles, flies and ladybugs, which move pollen from one flower to another, enabling fertilization and the production of seeds, fruits and vegetables. They're a vital part of our food system, McGinn said.

McGinn noted several ASES teachers are involved in the project, with pollinators forming a key part of the elementary science curriculum. Talks are ongoing to establish a school garden club, in partnership with the Minden Junior Horticultural Club.

The Haliburton County Master Gardeners is assisting, offering suggestions for suitable native plants. McGinn said there will be lots featured, including scarlet beebalm, spotted joe-pye weed, American brown nut, biennial bee blossom, brown fox sedge, sweetgrass, wild chives, black-eyed Susan, slender mountain mint, New England aster, sky blue aster, tall sunflower, Prairie smoke, swamp milkweed, anise hyssop, white heath aster, and zigzag golden rod.

The team will begin planting flowers next fall. Now, they're looking for the community to pitch in with tarp and mulch to prepare the site.

"We really think and hope this garden will be a community endeavour, and that we can inspire a sense of pride and ownership for the entire town. It would be lovely if this were here for the next 20, 30 years.

"Once it's established, it really won't need much care. These plants thrive on their own – they won't need to be watered throughout the summer. We're doing the work now, so that nature can take over," she said.

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Highlander people

Robinson cherishes 'life of memories'

By Mike Baker

Whether he was rubbing shoulders with visiting Hollywood superstars, music moguls, hockey phenoms, or the few hundred locals he considers an extension of his own family, Dorset's Brad Robinson has always approached his customers the same way – with a spring in his step and a smile on his face.

The former owner of Robinson's General Store was celebrated by his family, friends and former colleagues earlier this month at a 90th birthday party, held, where else, but the corner of Main Street overlooking Trading Bay.

It was a full circle moment for the man who has spent the better part of eight decades building the business into one of Canada's biggest and best country stores – an award it actually won in 1981, following a nationwide poll in *Today Magazine*.

Robinson's story with the eponymous shop began around 1946, when, aged 11, he was drafted in by his father, Harry, to scoop ice cream for customers. Then, the store was a blip on the map compared to today – a "cozy" 1,250 sq. ft. box, Robinson recalls.

He spent much of his spare time as a teenager helping his father and three older brothers run the place, learning about the store's inner workings and, most importantly, its customers. By the time he was 19, Brad had earned sole control.

The 1950s and 60s were a time of great change in Dorset. The government had started selling off Crown land on hundreds of lakes in cottage country. Brad remembers his father pulling him aside and telling him he had an opportunity to grow alongside the community.

Expansion followed – over the next 30 or so years, Brad added a dozen extensions to the building, stretching its footprint to almost 20,000 sq. ft. He added a dedicated hardware wing, a boutique for clothing and jewellery, and souvenir shop for people seeking trinkets to mark their trip.

At its peak, the store employed about 100 people, Robinson said. By now, multiple generations of families in the Dorset area have experienced life under Brad's employ. Many of them were in attendance for the June 7 bash.

While he took a step back in 1991, passing ownership on to his daughter Joanne and son-in-law Willie Hatton, Brad retained a daily presence at the store. The same rings true today. Though the Robinson clan gave up their stake in 2021, Brad can usually be found walking the aisles and helping for a couple of hours in the morning and early afternoon.

"It's a short walk from home and I love seeing and speaking with people… it's hard to change something that's been a habit my entire life," he told *The Highlander* in a June 20 interview.

While there was trouble with the first set of owners – Robinson's closed for three months in early 2023, ripping the heart out of the downtown – Brad said the new owner, Ven Kommina, who took over in summer 2023, has got the store back on track. He's encouraged about the future, with the store this year celebrating its 104th anniversary, having opened in 1921.

Meeting stars

Asked about memorable encounters and stories through the years, Brad springs into action. He remembers the summer that Hollywood 'it' couple Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell were in the area, while famed actor and comedian Mike Myers, was a regular for several years.

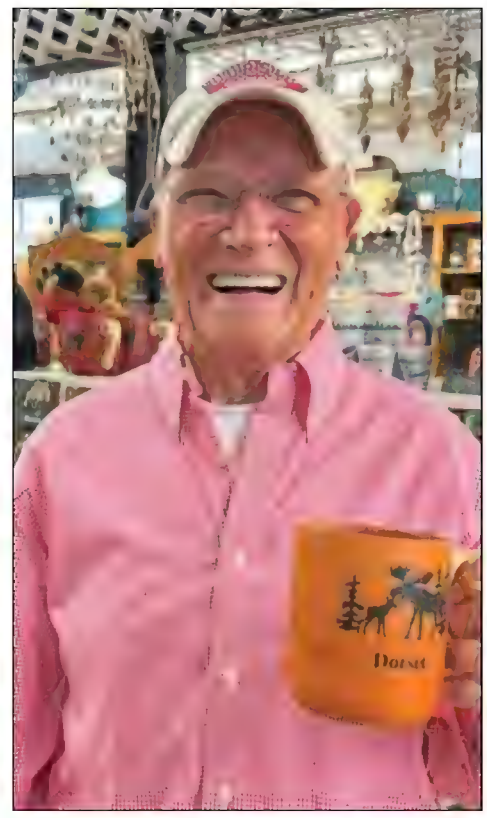
Encounters with National Hockey League stars and athletes from other pro sports have been a dime a dozen, though there's one Canadian icon who, contradictory to her 1997 hit single, always impressed Robinson when she stopped by for a visit.

"Shania Twain used to come in all the time – she dressed and acted like an ordinary person, never wanted a big deal made out of her being here," Brad recalls.

One year, at an employee Christmas party at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Twain surprised Robinson with an impromptu set. During one of her songs, she left the stage and took a seat on Brad's knee. "Not many men can say that," Brad said with a laugh.

Reflecting on his many years at Robinson's, Brad said he feels fortunate to have lived the best version of his life.

"Not a single regret – I'm a very lucky man," he noted. "I'm not one for legacy and that kind of thing, but I know I've had a lot of fun. I've met thousands of wonderful people, had some incredible experiences and, I think, helped to make a positive difference in my community. What more could a man ask for?"



At 90-years-old, Brad Robinson maintains a daily presence at the Dorset store his family has run for over 100 years. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

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Highlander business

Turtle Guardians 'thrilled' to be downtown

By Mike Baker

Highlands-based charity Turtle Guardians has moved into new digs in Haliburton village, with lead Leora Berman hoping the relocation provides the non-profit with more of a presence in the community.

Staff and volunteers have spent months redesigning the lower level at 235 Highland St., creating a welcoming space for people wanting to learn more about one of the world's oldest reptile species. The charity was located at the Haliburton fish hatchery on Gelert Road for about seven years, vacating the space in January.

"We've been looking for a new home for three years. Space was a challenge where we were, but the biggest problem was we didn't have running water," Berman said.

Berman said she loved being part of the community hatchery, but noted it was costing $800 a month transporting water to the site, while staff have been injured lugging around heavy buckets.

With about double the footprint to work with now, Berman and her team have given Turtle Guardians a fresh look. The main foyer was designed with children in mind. Bookcases line the walls, while there's colours and decorations intended to mimic the outdoors; a structural support has been turned into a paper mâché tree, with the bright blue walls mimicking a clear summer day sky.

There are six rooms – some office space for staff, but also ones dedicated for turtle rehabilitation, turtle feeding, and youth programming. There will also be an "interpretive room" that Berman said will feature rolling exhibitions about things like turtle biology and behaviour.

Turtle Guardians' Leora Berman and Michaela Bouffard outside the non-profit's new home on Highland Street. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Tours lasting 45 minutes are available during regular hours – Tuesdays/Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesdays/Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. – and are $10 for people 15 and older, and $7 for children.

"Each one will be different depending on what your interests are. But there will be lots of learning opportunities – we'll show you how to safely handle a turtle, and how to work with snapping turtles," Berman said. "I don't know a kid that isn't inspired or intrigued by turtles."

All of the 20 turtles in the charity's care arrived from the Ontario Turtle Trauma Centre and other facilities because they were disabled. Berman regards them as ambassadors, or "teaching turtles."

Turtle Guardians is the third largest incubator in Ontario, Berman said, providing a controlled environment for the care and protection of nests that were in risky spaces. They have volunteers out in the community daily responding to incidents involving turtles on the road.

The group has over 180 registered volunteers and six sister chapters across the continent, in Ontario, Texas, California and Florida. Turtle Guardians also works with the OPP and several Canadian municipalities on training and strategies to ensure turtle nesting sites aren't disturbed during road maintenance.

She said it's important to save as many turtles as possible as it can take up to 60 years to replace fully-grown adults, which play a "vital role" in our lakes.

The group carries out lengthy research projects, too. Michaela Bouffard, a biologist and road ecologist, has been working with Turtle Guardians for the past year investigating how adult pheromones impact hatchling turtles. Recently, staff have noted an increase in egg implosions when they're excavated from nests.

"We want to do some analysis to figure out why that is – whether it's down to calcium deficiencies in the environment, the presence of microplastics or glyphosate-based herbicides," Bouffard said. Berman noted the Highlands region is the only one in the province reporting this type of issue.

The charity is also finalizing testing for a turtle eco-passage fencing prototype, which Berman said can be installed at known road crossings where there are existing culverts. She hopes it will limit the number of turtles being hit by cars.

"We just have to get engineer [approval] and they'll be ready to roll out across Ontario."

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received an application to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024076:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of the Gull River lying in front of 1089 Mistivale Road, located within Part Lot 6, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **July 25, 2025**.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than July 25, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced application will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building,
By-Law and Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

Delancey Sports owners Josh Karam and Erika Mozes unveiled a new Roots Haliburton line at the store this week. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Roots Canada unveils Haliburton line

By Mike Baker

One of Canada's most iconic clothing brands is getting back to its roots in cottage country.

Roots Canada this week unveiled a new Haliburton line of T-shirts and hoodies, honouring the connection company founders Michael Budman and Don Green fostered after meeting at nearby Algonquin Park in the early 1960s. The wares will be available exclusively at Delancey Sports on Highland Street.

With the business celebrating its fifth anniversary this year, owners Josh Karam and Erika Mozes said this is the perfect way to mark the occasion. The pair said they manifested their destiny after seeing community-branded Roots gear while skiing in Whistler, BC in February.

"The Roots store in the village was packed with Whistler gear – it was right at the peak of this 'buy Canadian' movement starting and so we saw it as a perfect opportunity to reach out and see, given the company's story, if there was an interest in doing something similar with Haliburton," Karam said.

Roots designers worked with the Delancey team to develop a line "fitting for the community," he added. The new clothing has been in-stock since June 25.

Karam said he's also discussing potential product lines specific for Sir Sam's Ski/Ride, where Delancey's has a seasonal location, and its Bracebridge store, with that community celebrating its sesquicentennial this year.

"We would argue Roots is the most iconic brand in Canada… we're honoured that they chose to partner with us," Karam added.

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Haliburton crews fighting fires

As of June 22, 11 crews, consisting of 56 fire rangers and 13 overhead staff, have been deployed from the Haliburton Fire Management Headquarters (FMH) to wildland fires in the northwest region of Ontario. Shayne McCool, fire information officer northeast region, said four crews and two overhead staff are currently in the field from the Haliburton FMH. So far this season, Haliburton staff have been deployed to Kenora, Red Lake, Fort Frances, Sioux Lookout and Nipigon. A deployment is typically a two-week fire assignment, which can extend to as long as 19 days with travel time. There have been three wildland fires in the Haliburton forest management area this season. The last was Haliburton 3 at 40.7 hectares. It was located in the northeast corner of Algonquin Park, and was confirmed out on May 12. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Top: Klose Crew from Haliburton FMH pose for a picture prior to their deployment to Kenora. Bottom: Bob Hurley, fire management supervisor of Haliburton FMH, and incident commander of an incident management team (second from the right), posing with his safety officer, plans chief, and finance chief prior to their deployment to Red Lake. *Submitted.*

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Junior highlanders

HHSS students tour the Thomas Quarry on North Shore Road. *Submitted.*

Francis Thomas Contracting hosts students at quarry

Francis Thomas Contracting partnered with the Haliburton County Home Builders Association May 28 to host an educational site visit for Grade 12 students from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

The initiative, aimed at encouraging youth to explore careers in construction and mining, brought students to Francis Thomas Contracting's quarry on North Shore Road for an immersive, hands-on experience.

Students began their day at the scale house, where they were introduced to the operational side of quarry logistics. They explored the digital systems that track and manage material flow, and gained insight into the responsibilities of scale house personnel - a critical part of the quarry's daily function. Following this, students observed material stockpiling processes before taking a guided walk around the crushing plant, where the quarry's crushing operations were in full swing.

"There's a real need for youth interest in the skilled trades and mining," said Keith Thomas. "We're proud to help bridge that gap by showing students the real-world applications of what a career in construction can look like." *(Lisa Gervais)*

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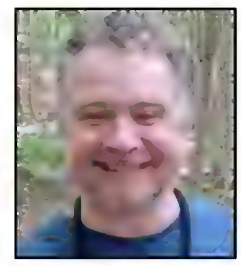
ADVERTORIAL

Why natural gardens are low maintenance

I sometimes see a meme on social media that says native plants are low-maintenance. Like a lot of things said on those online compost heaps, it's not true.

But it could be.

The thing is, it's not the plant, it's what you do with it that makes it low or high maintenance. Here are ways we create gardens and shorelines that are easier to manage.



By Simon Payn

Right plant, very right place

The big difference between natural gardens and traditional horticulture is that we work with ecological processes rather than against them. What we've considered "gardening" is often a trial of strength, trying to get a plant to thrive against its natural instincts and holding that "finished" garden in stasis. This requires time, fertilizer, and brute force.

In contrast, natural gardens go with the natural flow. We understand what the plants will naturally do and use a gentle hand to guide them.

It starts by choosing a plant suited to its environment - the right sun, moisture, and soil conditions. With native plants, we go further, choosing a plant that naturally grows here. Right plant, very right place.

When it comes to management (we call it that instead of "maintenance"), we wait and watch. We see what the garden wants to do and intervene only if needed. We allow plants to self-seed or let volunteer species arrive. We don't get upset if some plants turn out to be the wrong choice and fail to thrive. We let the garden do its thing according to the seasons, gently steering it in a direction that both we and nature like.

More plants, more layers

If you look at some human-made landscapes, we see isolated plants, each surrounded by a sea of dyed mulch. It looks neat and tidy and nothing like nature.

Visit the edge of the forest and you'll find lots of plants growing on top of each other in layers. Natural landscapers take cues from this behaviour.

The most common design style we use is the "matrix." When we design like this, we make heavy use of groundcover species - the matrix that underpins the rest of the planting. In most designs, at least 50% of the entire planting is this layer. The big benefit of the matrix (besides design coherence) is that it naturally suppresses weeds. We use mulch as a weed suppressant in the first year, but after that, the matrix takes over.

Next, we choose plants that play nicely with each other. These are often plants you'll find growing together in a natural community. We do the same, choosing plants that have characteristics - root forms or reproductive strategies, for example - that are complementary rather than competitive.

Back in nature, plants are seldom a monoculture. The only exceptions are extremely stressful environments where only one plant has the right adaptations, or where an invasive plant with no natural enemies manages to out-compete others. Contrary to the "nature red in tooth and claw" image on TV, plants in natural communities support each other.

Putting it together

Let me get one thing straight: natural gardens are not zero maintenance. They still need some tending. Indeed, in the first year or two, while your landscape is still finding its feet, you'll need to do some weeding and maybe some watering.

But with the right plants put together in the right way and, more importantly, with the right attitude as a gardener, we can create a landscape that for the most part looks after itself.

Just like nature does.

Simon Payn owns Haliburton-based ecological landscaping company Grounded. For more information, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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GARDENING FOR LIFE

Junior highlanders

Hal high students get a taste of tourism

By Lisa Gervais

At the Post House on Lake Kashagawigamog, chef Dan Sanders extends a container of locally-grown mushrooms to Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student Veronica Beynon to have a sniff.

Sanders was discussing his career with hospitality students June 12 as teacher Darla Searle's class visited Molly's Bistro Bakery, and the Post House to learn more about the industry. They also heard from Kayla Gardiner of the Bonnie View Inn.

Post House front of house manager, Justine Dart, took the students on a tour and talked to them about the business and job opportunities in tourism and hospitality.

Dart said the Post House operates as an inn and a restaurant "so there's a whole bunch of different facets, and things that need to be covered, and as far as possible careers go, there's lots of different ways to think about it. There is the serving side and the restaurant side, all the food and beverage, there is the cheffing side. Then, there is the business of getting rooms ready, and keeping them nice, and greeting everyone, and advertising."

Gardiner talked about event planning. She handles weddings at Bonnie View, and plans others on her own. She told students she began at their age, starting a cleaning company in Grade 10, with many jobs after. She added the industry took her to Australia, Iceland and Banff.

Hal High students tour the cabins at the Post House. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Her advice? "Never too early to start and always having a side hustle." She said being calm, goal-oriented and organized is necessary, as are communication skills.

Sanders' advice for students wanting to one day chef was to get an apprenticeship, as it will get them into a kitchen as fast as possible. He suggested they work at the best fine dining restaurants to learn. He said it takes 10 years to get to be a chef. He added one has to be passionate and "into food" to choose the career. However, he said it takes hard work and requires constant learning.

Searle said, "as much as I can tell them in the classroom there's eight sectors in the tourism industry, they still only think about the cooking as one. So, this opportunity provides them a way to see all of the different parts of the industry work together."

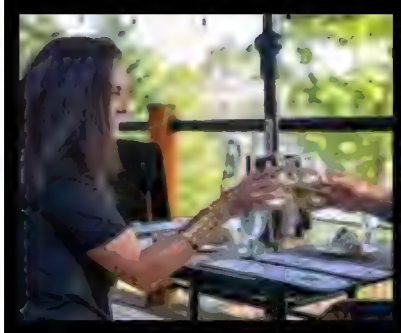
She added most students don't realize how much tourism and hospitality there is in the Highlands.

"Any time that I can expand their knowledge about the industry, show them real world examples of what this industry does; I also try to sell them that the hospitality and tourism industry is the one industry that is worldwide." She said even if it is not their calling, it is a means to see the world as a young person. It can also provide jobs to pay for post-secondary education.

As for the day, Beynon said, "it's been really fun…the small bakery was very nice and now we get to come to a larger scale restaurant kitchen. It's nice to see the differences in person and talk to a chef."

The County's economic development and tourism team organized the opportunity, similar to the skilled trades event. Tourism coordinator Eric Casper said "the overall goal is just to get this sector of students realizing it is a career path."

Culinary Experience



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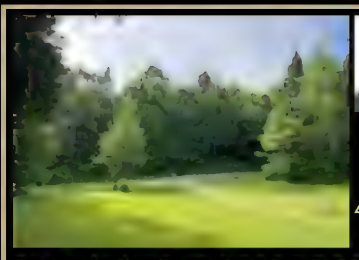

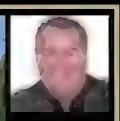
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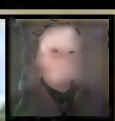
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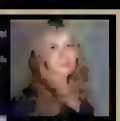
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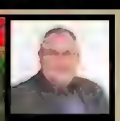
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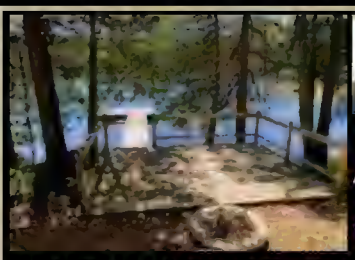

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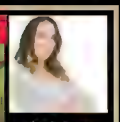
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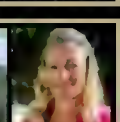
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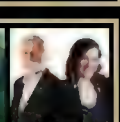
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Highlander events

Citizen science

It was a team effort at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve this past weekend as volunteers from the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust were joined by dozens of Ontario scientists and community helpers to identify the many species that call the 600-acre site home. The event ran from 26 hours June 21-22, with 79 people helping to uncover at least 400 new species. Final numbers won't be known for a few weeks, said HHLT's Adrian Martin.

Above: Nick and Maddie Mandrask indulge in some electro-fishing. Top right: Belinda Gallagher, wildflower expert, shares her knowledge with Deb Robinson, Susan Bardwell and Maryam Tavakol. Bottom right: Ed Poropat, retired teacher and lifelong naturalist welcomes scientists and naturalists to the Barnum Creek Bioblitz.
Photos by Steve Sherwood.

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Highlander community

Legion helps station 4

Newly re-elected Legion 624 president Rick Cleveland presents a donation cheque to Highlands East fire department Station 4 district chief Gary Mount May 13. *Submitted.*

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Long Weekends Remind Us We Are All a Family

A Canada Day message from Thomas Contracting

For most Canadians, the July 1st long weekend means campfires, fireworks, and time with loved ones. At Thomas Contracting, it's also a reminder that our workplace is, quite literally, a family - one built on loyalty, respect and rewarding careers right here in Haliburton Highlands.

"We never wanted to be the biggest crew - only the best-looked after," says owner Keith Thomas. "Good wages, benefits and a clear path to grow keep talented people here, and that stability lets us deliver rock-solid work for our clients."

The numbers back him up. Thomas Contracting employs 43 full-time tradespeople and project staff, 28 of whom work year-round. Remarkably, 13 team members (46% of the year-round crew, and one-third of our entire workforce) have been with the company for more than a decade each. That kind of longevity is virtually unheard-of in construction and it speaks volumes about how employees are treated.

Just ask Gerry Bull, one of the company's longest-serving team member, now celebrating 28 years on the job. "There are always opportunities for training on different pieces of equipment and growth. Hard work is always appreciated. It's an extended family we help each other out! That's what family does. Thomas appreciates their staff in many ways," Bull shares. "Time with your family is valued and never a question - you take the time you need. It's hard to find employment that offers benefits. It certainly helped us, especially when we were younger and starting a family!"

Gerry is joined by colleagues such as Jack Snell (34 yrs), Scott Carpenter (25 yrs), Rylie Sloan (21 yrs), Britt (full-time 13 of 20 yrs), Dave Byrnes (18 yrs) and Brandon Thomas (19 yrs)—proof that commitment runs deep across generations.

And the next wave is well underway: Tyler Stamp marks his first decade this summer, while rising stars Peter Anthony and Joe Cox are right behind at 11 years each.

So when you see a Thomas Contracting truck rolling to a job this summer, remember that behind the logo is a tight-knit team with decades of shared experience: neighbors building for neighbors. Because on long weekends, and every week in between, we're all a family.

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Highlander sports

Nominations open for sports hall of fame

By Lisa Gervais

Nominations remain open until Sept. 30 for the next batch of Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame inductees.

Dale Walker has taken over as president of the hall, which has its main location upstairs in the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton, and a satellite wall at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden.

"Few community events create the level of enthusiasm as a Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame inauguration," Walker said.

"Our County has been home to extraordinary athletes who have brought distinction and honour to themselves and the community. When hundreds of athletes, team members, builders, coaches, families and neighbours gather under one roof to recognize sporting excellence, the energy is undeniable."

Last May, community spirit was on display as the athletes were piped in, followed by a rendition of *O Canada* by Ella Gooley. There was applause as inductees accepted their awards. Walker said a highlight was the heartfelt welcome for the 1974 Hal High football champs. "Many of them flew back to their hometown from far away for the ceremony.

"Finally, there was an outpouring of emotion for our Red Wolves and their coaches who prove year after year the importance of inclusiveness in sport," the hall president said.

Walker said if you know an individual, team, or builder from the Haliburton Highlands whose endeavours in any sport are worthy of recognition, the hall of fame committee wants your input.

The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame upstairs in the A.J. LaRue Arena. *File.*

The nomination period for the 2026 ceremony opened Jan. 1, and runs until Sept. 30. Forms are at hhshoff.ca.

There are three categories: athletes; an individual connected with any sport, who has attained significant recognition and/or fame in, or, for the Haliburton Highlands, over a period of five years or more. An athlete must have been retired from active participation in the sport(s) for which they are nominated for a period of at least three years, or if still active, have attained the age of 40. Builders: an individual who has served as a coach, manager, trainer, game official, executive member, administrator or sponsor, or played another significant role to the advancement of sport. Teams: any team based in Haliburton County. The team must have achieved a high degree of success at the local, district and (if the opportunity existed) provincial or national level. Teams that have had a long period of success over many years at the local level will also be considered.

For all categories, written nominations and supporting documents are to be forwarded to the secretary of the hall. If you send a draft submission prior to Aug. 31, they can provide feedback and identify what else you could add to strengthen your submission. They said strong submissions include things such as photographs, newspaper articles, statistical data, and awards. Supportive letters from coaches and teammates are also helpful.

If you have questions, contact secretary Klara Oyler, at klaraoyler@sympatico.ca

Walker said, "sport continues to be an important part of Highlands culture and the committee looks forward to considering your nominations."

New nominees could join stellar hall of fame

By Lisa Gervais

Track and field star Kate Campbell, hockey players Scott LaRue and Gary Vasey, baseball exports Colin and Greg Newell, and footballer Mark Robinson were inducted into the athletes wing last time around.

Meanwhile, Gary Brohman, former principal and athletics coach at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, Jane Heyes, Ken Rosenberg, and Mark Schell Sr. were recognized as community builders.

The 1974 HHSS Redmen football squad were the sole inductee in the team category, recognized for their exploits winning the COSSA Single A championship.

The Haliburton County Red Wolves, which work with Special Olympics to have disabled athletes compete locally, and outside the County's borders, were an inaugural recipient.

The first-ever hall class, inducted in June 2022, featured football stars Michael Bradley and Taly Williams, track and field Olympian Lesley Tashlin, university track star Anna Tomlinson, hockey players Cody Hodgson, Ron Stackhouse, Bernie Nicholls, Donald Beverley (Joe) Iles, Glen Dart, and Marla MacNaull, and curler Jake Walker.

Those honoured in the original builders' category, recognizing those who have made significant contributions to furthering sport in the Highlands, included Linda J. Brandon, Albert John (Ab) LaRue, and Lenny Salvatori.

The 1934 Haliburton Huskies, 1956-58 Minden Monarchs, and 1971 Haliburton Jr. D Huskies were recognized in the teams' section.

Bill Gliddon and Sheila Popple accept awards on behalf of their fathers, players on the 1934 Haliburton Huskies team, from Roger Dart. *File.*

Highlander sports

‘Relief’ for Duchene as he re-signs in Dallas

By Mike Baker

National Hockey League star Matt Duchene said he was never interested in testing free agency this summer.

The 34-year-old centre signed a four-year $18 million extension with the Dallas Stars June 19, returning to the team he led in scoring last season with 30 goals and 52 assists in 82 regular season games and six points in 18 playoff appearances. The deal carries an average annual value of $4.5 million, with a full no movement clause through the 2025-26 and 2026-27 seasons and modified trade clause for the final two years.

His one-year $3 million contract, signed last summer, was due to expire June 30.

“It’s a relief for sure and it’s nice to be able to truly settle in,” Duchene told *The Highlander* in a June 22 email. “Not many 34-year-olds get four-year deals with as much trade protection as I got, so it shows the faith the organization has in me as a person and player.

“I don’t want that to ever feel misplaced. I want to honour that faith and trust they put in me by continuing to improve as a player and helping the Stars to win a cup,” he added.

The Haliburton native has been a key cog as the Stars have gone to back-to-back Western Conference finals, losing out to the Edmonton Oilers in each of the past two seasons.

After seeing team management shoot for the stars last spring, acquiring and signing superstar Mikko Rantanen to a long-term deal before tying down top restricted free agent Wyatt Johnston, Duchene believes the team has what it takes to go again come fall.

“The organization is second to none, with a chance to compete for a Stanley Cup every year,” he said. “We’re very close… I think we are a great defensive team, but we need to score more as it gets closer to the end [of the season]. We’ve dried up the last two years at the wrong times. Hopefully we can get there.”

In his 16th pro season, Duchene recorded his second-highest points tally and was a difference maker for the team, particularly early on when younger stars Jason Robertson and Roope Hintz were struggling.

Number 95 believes he’s playing the best hockey of his career on his fifth NHL team, following stints in Nashville, Ottawa, Columbus and Colorado.

“I think as you get older, you get smarter and more experienced. As long as you keep the physical part of your game where it needs to be, you should only get better,” Duchene said. “Also, I’ve been put in a great position to succeed… with so much talent around me.”

Knowing that, off-ice, his family – wife Ashley, and children Beau, Jaymes, and Ellie – are happy and settled has also helped.

“We absolutely love the city of Dallas; it has welcomed us with open arms. We are around like-minded people with great family and Christian values… so chasing more money at free agency to go somewhere where all these things may not be present made no sense to us,” he continued. “Dallas checks all the boxes.”

Duchene said part of the summer will be spent back home in the Highlands as he recharges his batteries following a gruelling year. This was only the second time he’s played a full 82-game regular season schedule. With playoffs, he featured in 101 games.

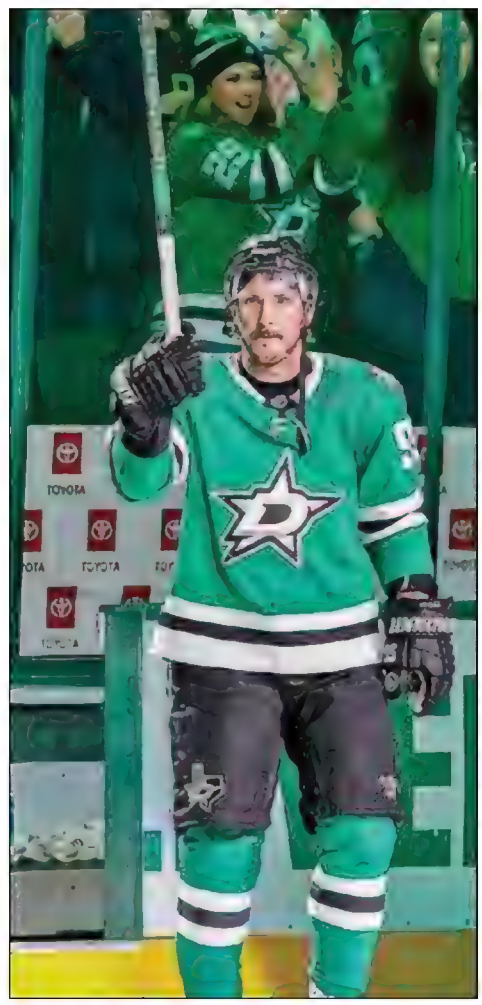
He’s looking forward to swapping his hockey stick for a golf club next month as the Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic returns to Blairhampton Golf Club. The fundraiser, benefitting Haliburton Highlands Health Services, is taking place July 18.

“To have great health care in our community is so important. Being able to contribute the way we have has been incredible – my dad (Vince) and the board have hit it out of the park the last few years, and we hope for a similar result this year,” Duchene said.

The 2024 event raised a record $222,000, supporting the purchase of new CPR assist devices, bladder scanners and ice machines for the Haliburton hospital and room upgrades at Highland Wood and Hyland Crest long-term care homes.

Duchene said he’s always loved the idea of playing at the top-level until he was 40, but admitted, with this contract taking him to 38, it might be his final NHL deal.

“After this, I’ll reassess and see where my game is at and how things with my family look.”



Haliburton’s Matt Duchene has re-signed with the Dallas Stars for four more seasons. *Photo courtesy of Dallas Stars.*

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Highlander sports

Left: Addyson Parish, Cheyenne Degeer, Annika Gervais, Luke Gruppe and Fynn Gooley - the five OFSAA competitors. Right: Parish takes the podium for Junior Girls Triple Jump. *Submitted.*

Red Hawks leap to success at OFSAA

By Lisa Gervais

Five Red Hawk athletes travelled to the Toronto Track and Field Centre to compete in the recent OFSAA Track and Field championships.

OFSAA competition includes the top four athletes from each of the six regions in Ontario.

Addyson Parish continued to assert her position as one of the best jumpers in Ontario, earning a silver medal in Junior Girls Triple Jump. Parish didn't let faulting her first jump shake her, and nailed her second jump with a leap of 11.34m. Parish showed her consistency, following up with an 11.27m and 11.18m. Parish has been struggling with a foot injury since the start of the season and chose to pass on her fifth jump. Parish also finished 10th in Junior Girls Long Jump, bettering her position from last year despite jumping below her personal best with a leap of 5.04m.

Fynn Gooley took his turn in the pits in the Junior Boys Long Jump. Gooley started out strong, being the first jumper to push the mark over six metres. With a solid jump on the sheet, Gooley continued to push and jump consistently, keeping his composure on the big stage to make top eight, and then moving into seventh on his last jump with a personal best of 6.27m for the season.

Luke Gruppe threw 32.15m in Novice Boys Discus to place 20th. Cheyenne Degeer finished 18th in the 400m Hurdles and Annika Gervais ran hard in the 800m.

The athletes got to meet Andre DeGrasse, who shook hands and autographed items.

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What's on

Keeping the writing tradition alive

By Lisa Gervais

Line Pujos sits in the basement of a century-old stone church by Maple Lake and scribbles in a notebook.

It's a great space to create, replete with stone walls, a stained-glass window, and light pouring in through other portals to the outside world.

St. Peter's, Maple Lake is the gathering place for the Algonquin Highlands Writers' Group. It's been going for about 20 years, and Pujos wants to ensure it remains for a long time to come.

"Look at the place," Pujos says. "It's the ideal place to meet. It's quiet."

She joined about two years ago, but says there are people in the group who have been around since its inception. Brenda Peddigrew started it all, "for people to feel comfortable reading stories or poetry and not feel that they were going to get blasted," Pujos said. "There's no critiquing."

She jokes she is a "lousy writer" but her peers provide positive reinforcement.

The group now has a core of seven to eight people but they would like to see that grow.

"It's a solid group. I really want to save it," Pujos said. While numbers are stable, it does not take much for them to dwindle; someone travelling south for the winter, illness or injury, and bad winter weather.

"I think if we can add a couple of new members; I think anyone who'd like to write would benefit a lot from joining us because you are exposed to different styles. I wouldn't be writing this much if it wasn't for them. It's forcing me to write every two weeks; a story, I'm just sitting here and writing four or five pages."

They meet every second Saturday – the next gathering is June 28, from 9:30-noon. From 9:30-10 a.m., they talk about "writerly" news, things such as Bookapalooza, and the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands, which had a poetry jam at the Dominion Hotel in Minden recently. From 10-10:40 a.m., they write if so inclined, and then from 10:40 a.m. to noon, they share their writing. Some people write by hand, others with laptops or iPad.

Pujos stressed people should not be intimidated about coming. "This is garbage," she says of the contents of one of her notebooks. "I tell them every two weeks 'this is what I vomited today on four pages'. It doesn't matter. It's for the sheer fun of writing stories. I'm not in it to write something pretty, flowery, and beautiful." She said what she pens is humorous, so she has unintentionally become the "cut up" of the group.

It's also a fun way to start a writing journey, "because we're not judgemental. There's no right or wrong in the creative process. We're about loving life, loving nature, being accepting and having a positive attitude."

For more information, or to register, contact Line at writewaywritetime@gmail.com

Line Pujos is a relative newcomer to the Algonquin Highlands Writers' Group.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

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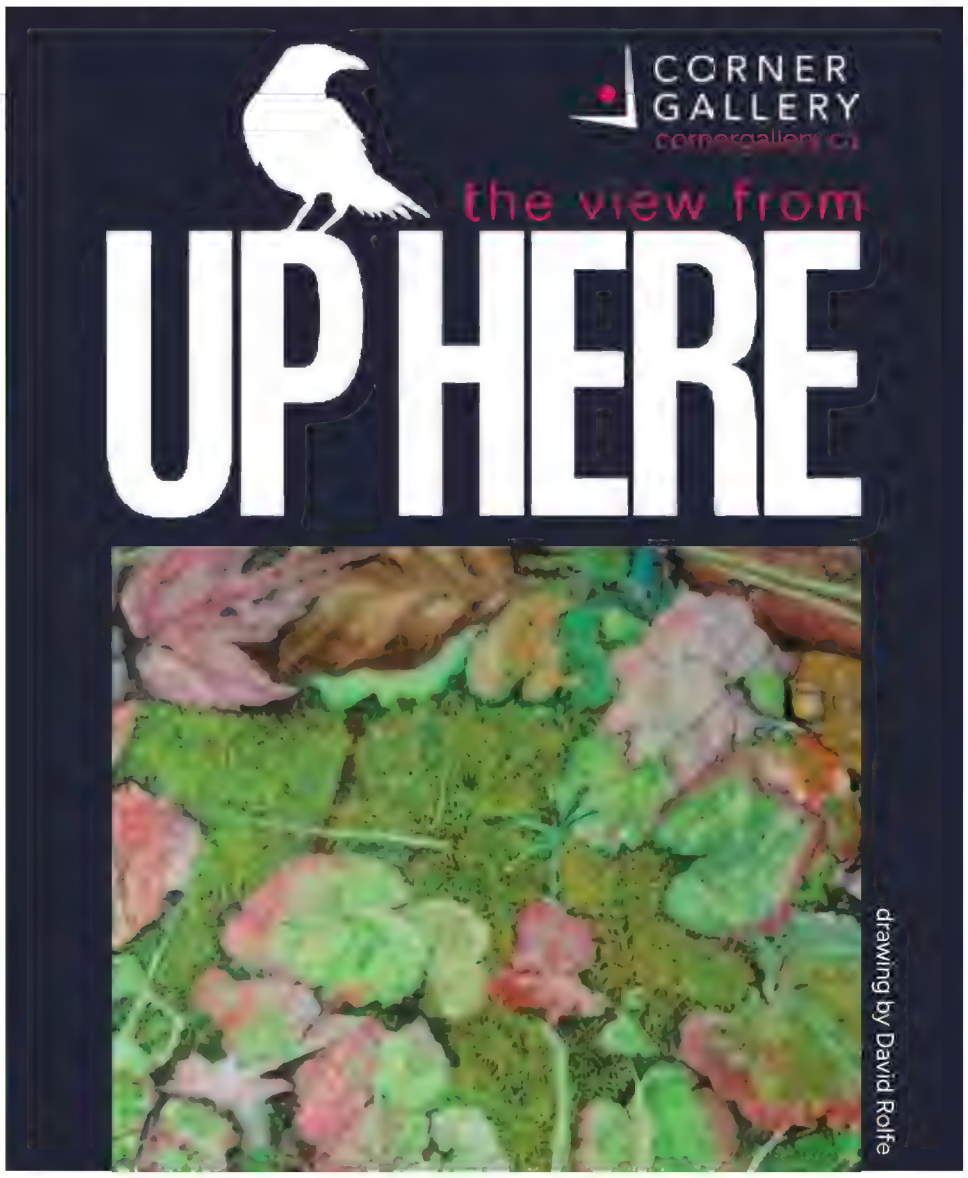

WHAT'S HAPPENING

JUNE 26 - JULY 2 this week

JUN 28 TO SEP 6
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Thursday June 26

Boshkung Brewing Live Music, 6 p.m.to 9 p.m.

Friday June 27

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake,
Erin Blackstock 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

Saturday June 28

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake,
Night Howlers, 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Belly Dance Workshops, 6:30-7:30

Boshkung Smokehouse, Night Howlers, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday June 29

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake,
Kingsley & Guest, 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

Monday June 30

The Dockside Bonnie View Inn, Shawn Steinhart 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday July 1

Haliburton Brewing Canoe FM Radio Bingo & dinner, 6 p.m.

Music in the Park, featuring Ragged Company, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday July 2

Boshkung Brewing, Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., Wing Wednesday!

The Dockside Bonnie View Inn, The Cruzers 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo 5 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. There will be a $1,000 jackpot July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, and Oct. 1. Snack bar available – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m, tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday.**
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Thursdays: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. June 30. Cost is $5 per player.

We have suspended our cornhole league.

HHHS social recreation June 26 at 10 a.m.

Seniors 55+ lunch June 27 at noon. Cost is $17 per person.

Fish and chips June 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 for one piece and $20 for two pieces.

Meat draw June 28 at 3 p.m.

Call the legion for more information at 705-448-2221.

EVENTS

There's nothing better than summer reading. Pick up a free TD Summer Reading Club Kit at any Haliburton County Public Library branch. Read the summer away and complete activities for a chance to win a prize. Submit a 'book bingo' card and/or the 'reading passport' by Aug. 15 to enter the draw. There are activities for people of all ages and abilities.

June 26, Pap-a-Plooza cervical cancer screening event at the Minden Health Hub. Anyone who is due for a screening and cannot access one is encouraged to book a one-time appointment by calling 705-286-2140 ext. 3902. Limited spots available. Screenings offered by Dr. Jennifer Mark.

June 26, 4 to 6 p.m. Walkabout and instructor feature at Haliburton School of Art + Design. Explore instructors' works, learn about their techniques, and discover new perspectives as you tour studios and enjoy featured exhibitions. Live music to follow in the Great Hall. These shows are the perfect way to unwind and connect with like-minded people. All are welcome.

June 26, 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Have you ever heard the magical sound of wolves howling in unison? Every Thursday night in July and August, the Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre welcomes the public to gather in its seminar building for a short presentation about wolves followed by a walk outdoors where staff will attempt to engage with the wolves. There is no cost to attend. The program will begin at 8 p.m.

June 27, 10 a.m. to noon. Attend a family-friendly 'browning reptiles summer kick-off party' at the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Get up close with amazing creatures, sign up for the TD Summer Reading Club, cool off with free freezies and sing your favourite tunes with karaoke. No registration required.

June 28, Truck pull and show and shine at the Minden Fairgrounds, hosted by the Kinsmen Club of Minden. All registration begins at 8 a.m. Truck pull starts at noon. There is also a corn hole tournament, starting at 10 a.m. Food, refreshments and beer garden on-site. Admission is $15 for adults, $5 for kids ages 12 to 16, with children 12 and under free.

June 28, 10 a.m. Environment Haliburton! is hosting its annual general meeting at Haliburton United Church, located at 10 George St. Guest speaker Zach Decock will talk about how vulnerable Haliburton County is to wildland fires. Refreshments will be served, with a short business meeting and election of directors to follow. For more information, contact Susan Hay at 705-457-9239.

June 28, 10 a.m. Bake sale at Highland Hills United Church, located at 21 Newcastle St. in Minden. A variety of pies and bakes items will be available for purchase in the church's lower level. Everyone welcome.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised?
email mike@thehighlander.ca.

YARD SALES!

MULTIPLE BIG YARD SALE – from the Irondale Store along Irondale Road, up to Contau Lake Road. June 28th only from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hunting, fishing, traps, ATV's boat, motors, chainsaw mill, kayak, farm equipment, antiques, furniture, you name it and priced to sell.

YARD SALE – 1034 Dusty Lane (4 minutes East of Carnarvon, off Hwy 118) Saturday June 28th & RAIN DATE Sunday, June 29th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Priced to go!! Leather couch, chairs, bunk bed, yarn, games, books, DVD's 1-6 year old toys and lots more!

HUGE YARD SALE – 1112 Plantation Road off Bobcageon Road. Saturday, June 28th & Sunday, June 29th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain or Shine! DVD's, books, kitchen stuff, décor, crafts, giftware, lamps, tool boxes etc.

YARD SALE – 1017 Summerville Rd, right on 503 off Glamorgan Road. Thursday to Saturday, June 19th to 21st and Thursday to Saturday, June 26th to June 28th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kitchen appliances, never used small green house, new drapes, electric heater and much more !

Our Annual GIGANTICO Garage Sale is here for another year!
Location: 1003 Moonrise Bay Lane (off of Hospitality Road) South Lake, Minden, Friday June 27th from 8.a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 28th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.& Sunday, June 29th from 8 a.m. to Noon. Follow our road signs! RAIN OR SHINE

MOVING SALE – 1675 Braeloch Rd, North of Carnarvon. Saturday, June 28th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hunting & Fishing items, Household items.

HUGE GARAGE MOVING SALE - 1287 Precipice Road, Haliburton. Follow the signs on Trapper's Trail. June 28 & 29 9:30 am - 2:30 pm - military dynamite box, rare old books (1813, 1896, 1912), 9ft ski pole for boat, 2 boat trailers, 2 golf club sets with walking carts, tarps, umbrella, 2 winter sleds, gas cans, hand tools, orange safety suit, battery screwdriver, hangers, queen sheet sets, queen mattresses, silverware, table linens, wooden trunk, many ladders and much more etc.

MULTI YARD SALES – DUCK LAKE RD., #1612, 1970, 2254, Saturday, June 28th & Sunday, June 29th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Comic Books, Bikes, Dog Crates, Rain Barrel, Fine Arts and Prints, Tools, Triton MK3 Workcentre, Electric Chainsaw, household goods, Hummel and Lladro figurines, TV Sound Bar, Golf- Clubs, Bags & Balls, T Shirts, metal shelving, etc. Lots to sell at 3 locations!

LARGE ESTATE SALE – 3748 County Road 121, Kinmount. Saturday July 5th & Sunday, July 6th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Furniture, tools medical aid stuff, lawn furniture, books, garden tools, too much to list. Priced to go!

YARD SALE – 27 Sancayne Street, Saturday, June 28th from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or Shine! Cookware,
Electric Golf Caddy, large selection of DVD's, DVD players and much more interesting stuff

MOVING SALE – 2075 Blairhampton Rd, Minden. Saturday, June 28th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Sunday, June 29th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tools, household items, handmade Quilts, too many items to list.

Highlander classifieds

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TheHighlander

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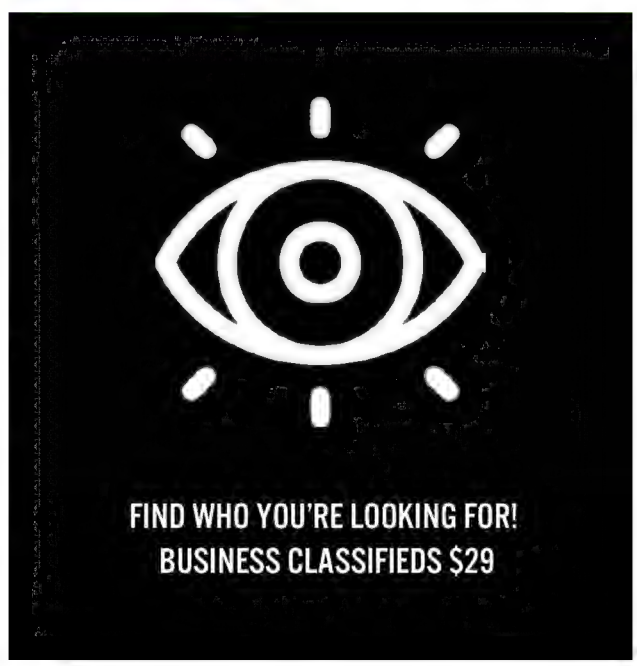

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Current Rate of Pay per CUPE Local 4416 Collective Agreement:
Rate of Pay- $25.94
Up to 30 hours per week, varied days of the week
Afternoon and weekend work required

A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application – Part-Time, Property/Parks & Recreation Labourer"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Wednesday, July 9th, 2025, via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer.

The Municipality of Highlands East
Is Currently Seeking A

Part-Time, Short-Term Rental (STR) Licensing Clerk/Enforcement Officer
Building/Bylaw Department

Current Rate of Pay per CUPE Local 4416 Collective Agreement:
$30.13/hour

Up to 30 hours/week, varied days of the week
Weekend work may be required

A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application – Short-Term Rental (STR) Licensing Clerk/Enforcement Officer"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m., Friday, July 11th, 2025, via mail, in person or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseat.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton.

NOTICE

Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. All are welcome.

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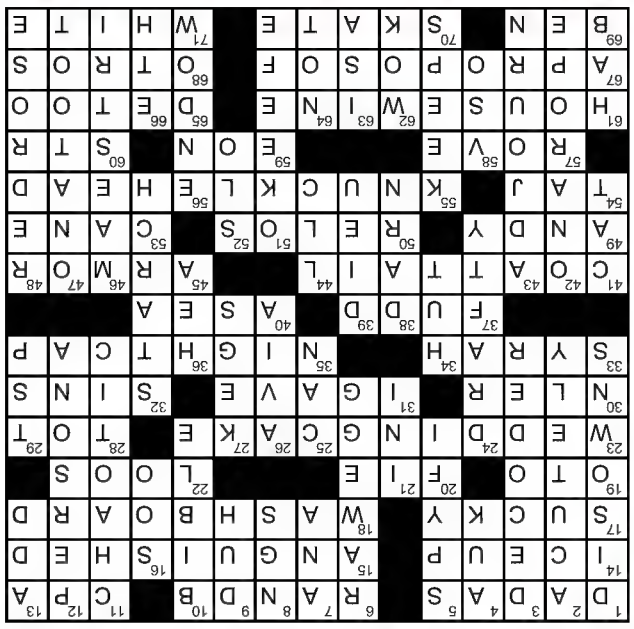
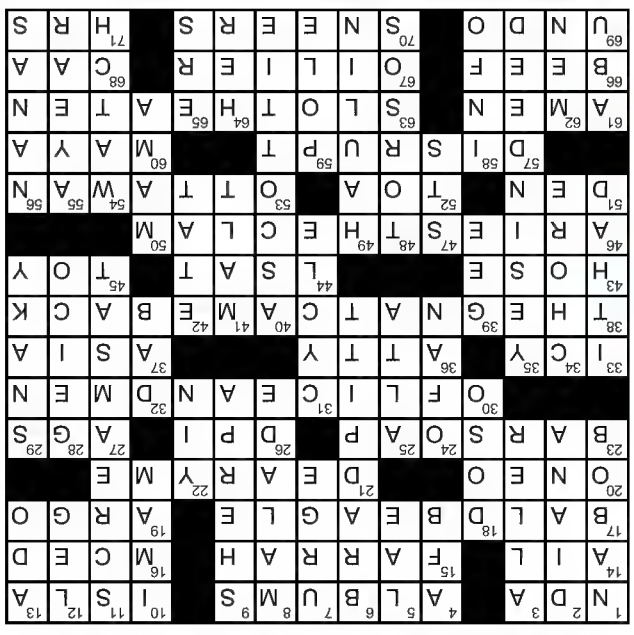
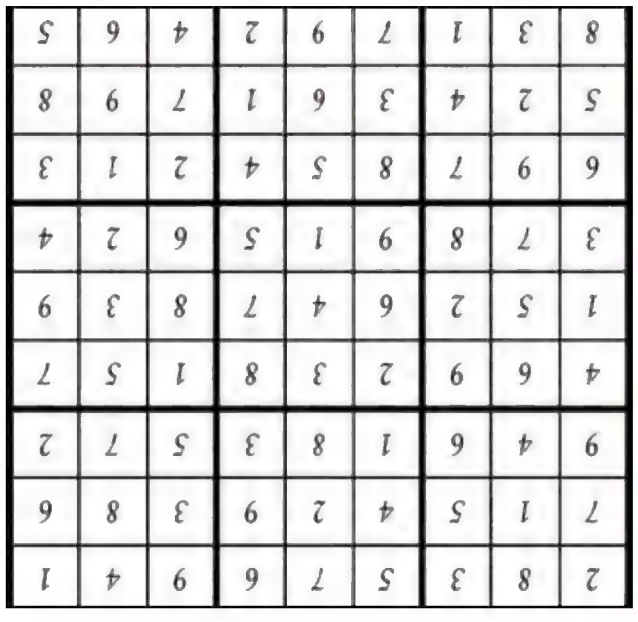


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





THANK YOU

BIRD

The family of the late Grenville (Beau) Bird would like to thank all of our wonderful friends and family who visited Beau in the hospital, and those who attended the visitation and Funeral Service to honour our Dad, Papa, and beloved husband.

Thank you also for the kind words, stories, hugs, wishes, donations, flowers and tree plantings in his memory. A special thank you to the ladies who prepared the lunch after the funeral and to Sharon and Jess for running errands and making food.

A heartfelt thank you to all the Dr.'s and nurses and staff members at the Haliburton Hospital. We are incredibly grateful for the care and compassion you showed Beau and all of us in the days prior to his passing.

Verna, Penny (Al), Jim (Heather), Randy (Angie), Steve (the late Barb), Brenda (John), Steve (Lisa), Harry (Beatrice) and families.

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OBITUARY

Robert J. Pearce

- March 30, 1950 – June 19, 2025 -

Suddenly after a brief illness, Robert J. Pearce (Bob or RJ to his friends) passed away June 19th, 2025.

Beloved partner of 52 years of Carolyn, loving dad of Jessie (Andrew) and Meaghan (Jeff) and proud Pop to his granddaughter Imogen. Loving son of Joyce and Jack (deceased) and loving brother to Carol and Teresa (Paul). Caring uncle to Morgan (Patryk), Taylor (Jeff), and Cardine. Affectionate brother-in-law to Margot. Fond godfather of Emily, Yves, and Effie.

Bob's favourite things were his family, his good friends, his time at the cottage, golf, playing guitar, fishing, water colour painting, a glass of good scotch or a full-bodied red wine, the odd cigar, and walking Maggie. He loved watching sports of all kinds, discussing politics of the day, philosophizing on a myriad of issues, enjoying a good laugh with family and friends and playing his record album collection at full volume.

Private family funeral arrangements have been made. Arrangements entrusted to the WALL-CUSTANCE FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 519-822-0051 / www.wallcustance.com.

In lieu of flowers, please consider supporting the Guelph General Hospital, Scott Mission, or a charity of your choice.

A tree will be planted in memory of Robert J. Pearce in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest.

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Highlander puzzles

Animal Exchange

by Barbara Olson
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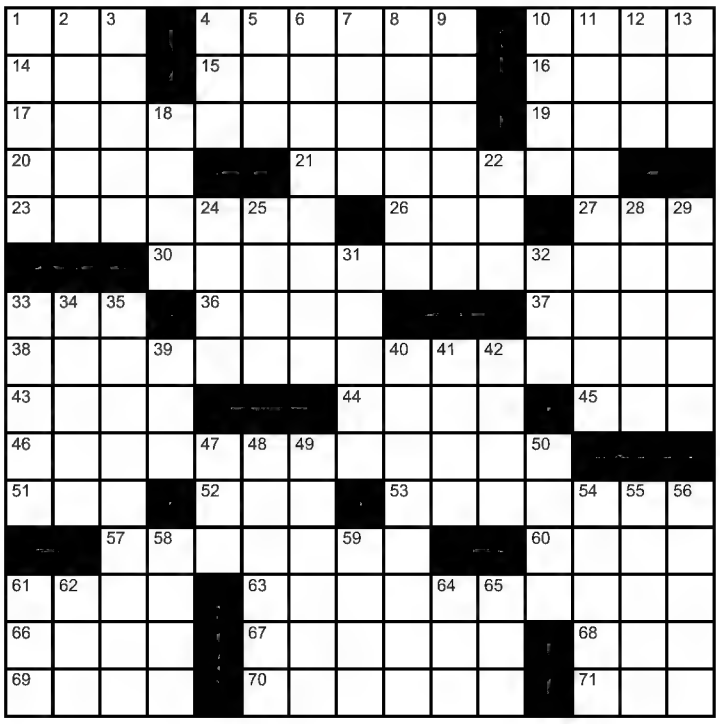

Across

1 Contract to keep quiet, for short
4 Picture books
10 Spanish land in the sea
14 Run a fever, say
15 Fawcett with a feathered do
16 Introduced guests
17 Snoopy with no coat?
19 T.O. Grey Cup seeker, briefly
20 ___'clock (lunchtime end, maybe)
21 "My goodness"
23 Ivory or Irish Spring
26 Printer resolution fig.
27 Justice Dept. leaders: Abbr.
30 Steinbeck book about guys with parasites?
33 Needing road salt, maybe
36 The "A" of 27-Across: Abbr.
37 "Heat of the Moment" band
38 Fred Penner song about a bug that "just couldn't stay away"
43 Hydrant attachment
44 Future prosecutor's exam
45 Kid's prize in a grabber machine
46 Zodiac sign symbolized by a chowder mollusk?
51 ___ of iniquity (evil place)
52 Ode title starter, often
53 Senators home game fan, likely
57 Cause a distraction
60 Hawke who played Robin on "Stranger Things"
61 Revival cry
63 Chewed by a slow-moving tree dweller?
66 Steakhouse meat
67 Harder to grasp, as a fish
68 Car club letters
69 Word processor's "Nix that last bit"
70 Appears disdainful
71 The 24 of 24/7: Abbr.

Down

1 Wealthy fellow, or a coffee brand
2 Singer Ross or Kraal
3 To go, in Gatineau
4 Site for U.S. mil. planes
5 Papua New Guinea port
6 One half of "Branjelina"
7 Craving
8 French for "sick"
9 Tibetan who gets high at work?
10 Shi'ite sermonizer
11 Loudly lets have it
12 One of a pair in a pair of pants
13 Big scene
18 "You can only ___ much..."
22 Dark side of a Chinese circle
24 In the wink ___ eye
25 Prov. led by the U.C.P.
28 Insurer with a lizard logo
29 Sinuous
31 Fill, wash, spin, e.g.
32 "A little ___'ll do ya" (Brylcreem slogan)
33 Sinatra's "___ to Be You"
34 Unpleasant task, often
35 Words of emphatic assent
39 "I'll be darned!"
40 Cravat's classier cousin
41 Brewer's goo
42 Californie or Virginie
47 Abbrs. in many cathedral names
48 Sculpted trunks
49 Pull down, as a huge wage
50 Baby's first word, maybe
54 Time shows on its face
55 "Christmas Comes But Once ___" (cartoon)
56 Grannies, in tot-talk
58 Wikipedia offering, in brief
59 Barber shop fixture
61 ___ Dhabi
62 Stag party attendees
64 That girl
65 Ambulance hosp. destinations

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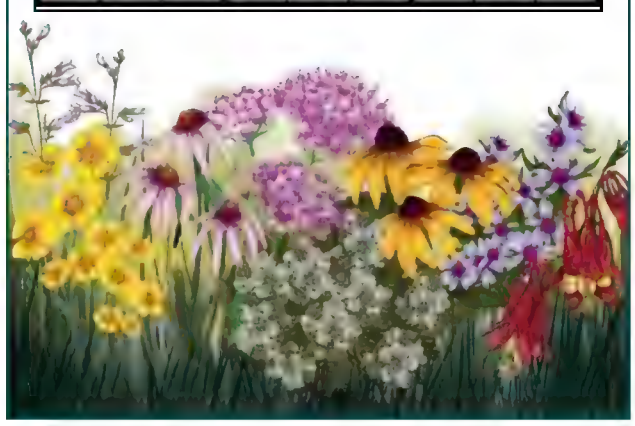

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The Highlander

WEEKEND

Thursday June 26, 2025

BOOKAPALOOZA ..... PAGE 3
RAILS END EXHIBIT ..... PAGE 4
CARVING KUDOS ..... PAGE 5
WANAKITA STRAWBERRY SOCIAL ..... PAGE 6

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER IN THE HIGHLANDS

Canada proud

Haliburton's Ian Macnab is a man on a mission. Taking exception to U.S. president Donald Trump's repeated comments about wanting to turn Canada into the 51st state, he's been spreading national pride across Haliburton County and beyond for weeks - handing out pins decorated with the red maple leaf to anyone who wants one. See page 2 for the full story. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

WEEKEND

CANADA DAY

Celebrating Canada one pin at a time

By Mike Baker

Ian Macnab says there's a new craze sweeping across Haliburton County, one that he hopes will bolster Canadian spirit and pride.

Since March, the Haliburton village resident has been handing out free pins emblazoned with the Canadian flag. There's no catch or hidden agenda he told *The Highlander* during a recent interview, only a desire for people to appreciate what they have living this side of the 49th parallel.

> *"This is an opportunity for us to stand tall, take pride in who we are and say, collectively, that we are Canadian and darn proud of it.*
>
> ***– Ian Macnab***

"As Canadians, we're pretty low-key people… known for being very polite, always saying sorry, but we'll stand up and push back when we have to," Macnab said of his inspiration. "This whole business around Canada becoming the 51st state – everybody thinks it's just an old man kidding around… but this is an opportunity for us to stand tall, take pride in who we are and say, collectively, that we are Canadian and darn proud of it."

The pins first appeared during a trip to Mexico – wanting something that distinguished him as Canadian, not American, Macnab ordered a pack of 35 from Amazon. He and wife, Jane, each took one, with the pair handing some more out while on the trip.

After returning home, Macnab didn't really have a plan for what to do with the rest. He didn't want to leave them sitting in a box gathering dust, so started offering them to friends and family.

"They all thought it was great, saying I should keep doing it. So, I ordered even more," Macnab said.

The new red-and-white movement landed in Haliburton village over the spring. Whether you're shopping at Foodland, Rexall, or Home Hardware, visiting the bank, or enjoying a leisurely stroll along Highland Street, Macnab wagers his pins won't be hard to find.

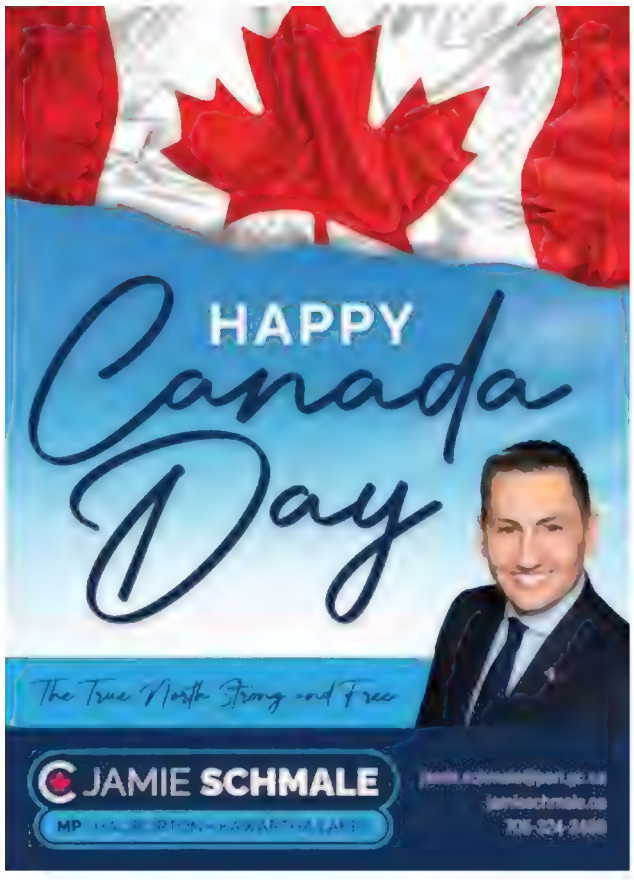
He figures he's given about 300 away so far, with no plans to stop.

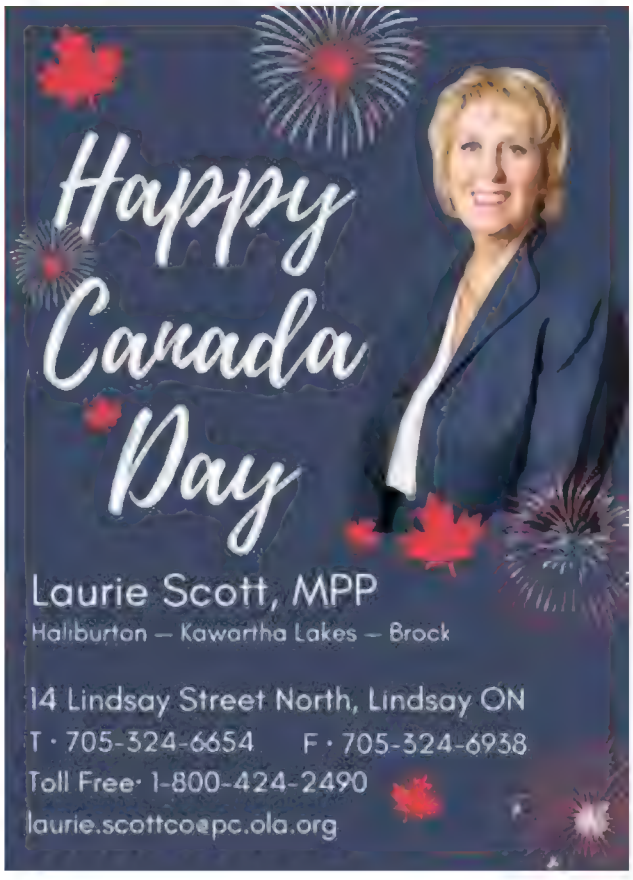
"If I'm in line with somebody I might tap them on the shoulder, strike up conversation and offer them a pin. It's all about spreading positivity," he said. "People are usually pretty surprised, taken aback, but once they realize it really is just a pin with the Canadian flag, they're fine. I do warn people though, mostly staff at these places, that I do check-ins!"

Anytime Macnab leaves home he makes sure to have a dozen or so pins in his pocket. He recently took some to his daughter in Prescott, a town of just over 4,000 people on the St. Lawrence River about 350 kilometres southeast of Haliburton.

"We took the kids out for ice cream, and I gave one to the lady at the shop. I gave some more to the kids to give to their teachers and friends," Macnab said. "This isn't a Haliburton thing, it's a thing I'm doing anywhere I go."

Ian Macnab has been handing out Canada pins to people in Haliburton County and beyond. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

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WEEKEND

Sci-fi writer to headline Bookapalooza

By Mike Baker

A member of science fiction writing royalty will make a pit stop in Haliburton County this summer.

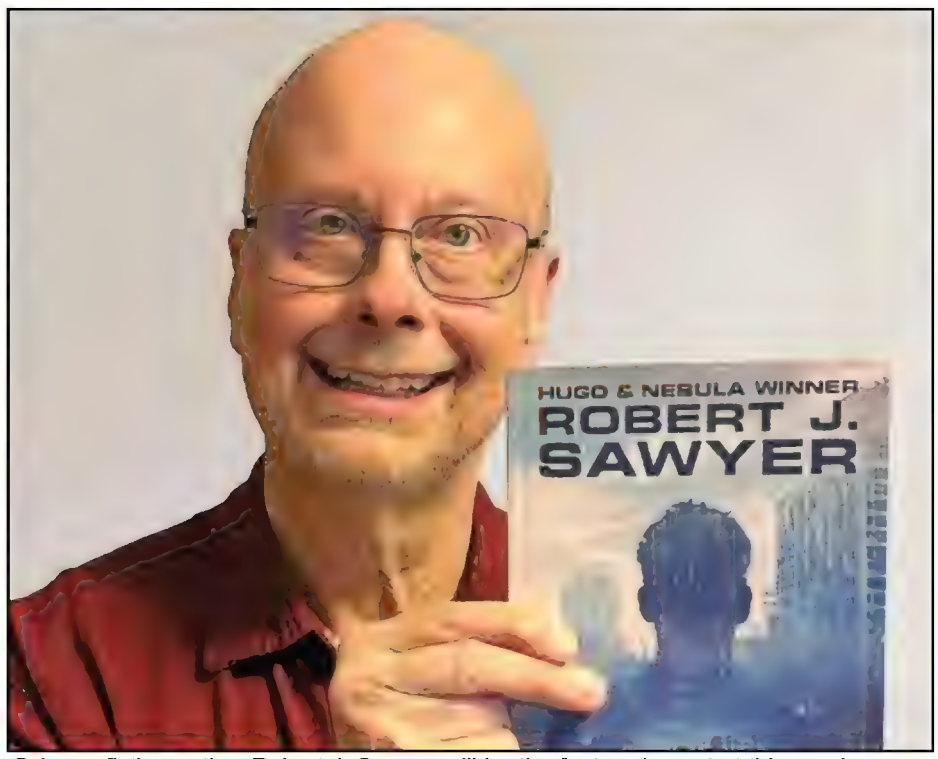
Robert J. Sawyer has been announced as the featured guest for the sixth-annual Bookapalooza, returning to the Minden Community Centre July 12. With 25 published novels to his name, Sawyer is one of the most respected and prolific authors of the genre, said Douglas Tindal, a member of the Bookapalooza steering committee.

"It's a very big deal that we have Robert coming here – he's a big name, world-renowned," Tindal said. "He's one of only eight writers to win all three of science fiction's major awards, and he's the only Canadian to do so."

Sawyer earned the 1995 Nebula Award for Best Novel for *The Terminal Experiment*, the 2003 Hugo Award for *Hominids*, and the 2006 John W. Campbell Memorial Award for *Mindscan*. His book *FlashForward* was adapted for television in 2009, airing for one season.

Tindal said he met Sawyer more than 40 years ago and has kept in touch. He offered some comments on the draft form of Sawyer's latest book, *The Downloaded*, before it was published in 2023. Already a member of the Bookapalooza steering committee by then, he floated the idea of a future appearance.

"Rob is always very keen to get out and meet fans – he thrives off that, so he is happy to join us," Tindal said, noting Sawyer will participate in a Q&A during the event and attend a more intimate dinner experience with fans at the Dominion Hotel in the evening. Both will require a ticket, Tindal said, available at haliburtonarts.on.ca.



Science fiction author Robert J. Sawyer will be the featured guest at this year's Bookapalooza, July 12 at the Minden Community Centre. *Submitted.*

While Sawyer's books fit the science fiction genre, Tindal said his style is more *The Handmaid's Tale* than *Star Wars*.

"I know a lot of people say they don't read science fiction, that it's all to do with space and other-worldly adventures, but it isn't. Rob's stories are all about human beings reacting to new situations they've never encountered before, grappling with questions of how we adapt and continue in new environments under new threats. He's a master at all of that," Tindal said.

The rest of this year's run is free to attend. There will be more than 40 authors selling and telling their stories about their works in an exhibitor hall, with five private writing workshops scheduled through the day – a new feature this year.

Tindal said those workshops will be led by visiting authors, with a full lineup to be released next month. He said topics will "focus on things that anybody who lives in this area would probably have an interest in."

The event, now in its third year under the Bookapalooza banner after rebranding from The Big Book Club, has been gaining traction. Attendance has been up for the past two years, Tindal said, with authors traveling from the GTA, Kitchener, and Ottawa.

"It probably takes five years for an event of this kind to become fully established… We want Bookapalooza to be recognized as one of the premiere cultural activities in Haliburton County.

"We have so much cultural activity to be proud of here, but the literary arts are not as prominent, not showcased as often. We want literary arts to take its place among our incredible visual, performing, and musical arts," Tindal said.

ARTS

THE TOWNSHIP OF
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Tuesday July 1, 2025

Downtown Minden
7:30am: Fishing Derby Registration Starts
8:00am-11:00am: Fishing Derby
8:00am-12:00pm: Minnow Races
10:00am-2:00pm: Vendors and Exhibitors
10:00am: Opening Ceremonies
11:30am: Free Canada Day Cupcakes at the Community Service Department tent *while supplies last
1:00pm: Rubber Duck Race

Fairgrounds
Dusk: Fireworks by Supernova

Cultural Centre
10:00am-4:00pm: Activities throughout the day
10:00am-2:00pm: Air Bounce Inflatables
10:00am–2:00pm: Face painting by Pockets
12:00pm – 1:00pm: Free Ice Cream, sponsored by Kawartha Dairy *while supplies last

SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena
11:00am: Super Dogs show #1
1:00pm: Super Dogs show #2
3:00pm: Super Dogs show #3

Supernova Fireworks

Happy Canada Day

For a full list of events visit our webpage

WEEKEND

ARTS

Heavy metal art

Addressing his eight-piece show 'Art and Labour' at Haliburton's Rails End Gallery, sculptor Garrett Gilbart said many of his works are inspired by history. A fully-trained welder, each piece features meticulous carvings on a metal base – often parts from scrapped vehicles. "The reason I use car parts is because they have a history to them. This exhibit acts as a way of bookending the industrial revolution," Gilbart told *The Highlander,* noting he's been producing art professionally since about 2016. The show debuted with an opening reception June 20 and will be in place until Aug. 28. The gallery is open Wednesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Left: Gilbart poses beside a selection of carved fuel tanks. Right: Garrett Gilbart peers through one of his sculpted metalworks. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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WEEKEND

Haliburton carver competes at worlds

By Mike Baker

Haliburton's Greg Gillespie has added four more world championship ribbons to his collection, earning a trio of top three finishes at the 54th annual Ward Wildfowl Carving Competition in Ocean City, Maryland.

The wood sculptor entered six original pieces into this year's event, which ran April 25 to 27. He's been a regular since 2008, competing against other top-class carvers from around the world. The Ward competition was established in 1968 and is one of the most prestigious on the circuit, Gillespie said.

There are five different categories – levelled competition, the Lem and Steve Ward competition, the Danner Frazer Youth award, special submissions, and the official world championships.

In levelled competition, competitors are separated into novice, intermediate, advanced and masters.

Gillespie submitted two interpretive bird carvings and one decorative life-size songbird carving into the masters levelled competition, where he earned one of his ribbons. In Open Level-Bench of the Lem and Steve Ward competition, his walnut paddle finished tops in the division; a recreation of a common flicker feather in the special competition placed third. Another interpretive piece for the official world championship competition failed to place.

He was chasing a second-ever ribbon at the world championship level, after earning bronze in 2016.

"I didn't quite get it – from talking with the judges, I have a feeling I came in fourth, which is the worst possible place to come in," Gillespie said, noting there were 12 entries.

He spends months crafting each piece. The three interpretive pieces he estimates took between 300 and 350 hours to finish, the paddle took about 200 hours, and the flicker feather, which he painted with acrylics, about 30 hours.

They're perfected in his Haliburton village home workshop, using mostly Ontario-sourced materials. Gillespie has become known for his trademark – black walnut.

"I don't think I can hide my work anymore. These competitions, it's supposed to be anonymous until the judging is done, so nobody knows who did what. But usually, when people see my pieces, they go 'oh, that's one of Greg's'," Gillespie said.

He always starts with large dark slabs, free-handing most of his designs.

"I don't make many notes and I'm not a very good drawer – I'll do some crude sketches of what I hope the final thing will look like, but the sculpture always changes and develops as I work," Gillespie said. "I've been known to pivot completely part way through a project – that's just how creativity works sometimes."

Greg Gillespie earned a third place ribbon at the 54th annual Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving competition, held in Maryland. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

The warmer months are typically spent outdoors, with Gillespie drawing inspiration from the Highlands' natural landscape. He enjoys hiking, camping, and canoeing, and rarely returns home from an outing without a new idea. He then hibernates in his workshop over the winter, perfecting his ideas.

Gillespie has been carving since 1982, when a friend and fellow woodworker, the late Weldon Tracey, took him to his first Ward World Championship. While it took Gillespie some time to compete at the event, he's been a regular for the past 17 years. He's hoping to win a world championship before he hangs things up for good, but said he's unsure when he'll next compete.

"With the way the political climate is now, I was a little worried about going to the U.S. I last went in 2023, but had to go this year because I needed to pick up one of my older carvings that failed to sell at auction," Gillespie said. "I probably won't go down again now as long as Trump is in power. I don't really want to support the U.S at this time."

ARTS

Celebrate Canada Day July 1st in Highlands East

CARDIFF 9:00 am -11:00 am, Cardiff Legion 2733 Monck Road. The Royal Canadian Legion will host breakfast at the Legion. Adults $5

HIGHLAND GROVE Noon - 3:00 pm, Kidd School House Museum, 5373 Loop Road Children's crafts, local entertainment, horseshoes and BBQ. Museum will be open.

WILBERFORCE 11:30 am, Red Cross Outpost Museum 2314 Loop Road Raising the flag ceremony live music followed by sandwiches & cake. **Games at the curling club.**

TORY HILL 1 pm -4 pm, Hwy 118 & Cnty Rd 503 Live music featuring Phil O'Reilly in the park and stories of local history. Bring your lawn chair.

GOODERHAM 6pm - 10:30 pm, Community Centre 1043 Community Centre Rd. Children's activities, cake, and live entertainment starts at 7 pm. Fireworks start at about 10 pm.

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WEEKEND

Sunny social

There was a jovial atmosphere at Haliburton's YWCA Wanakita June 22 as staff opened the 1,000-plus acre property to visitors for its annual community open house and strawberry social. Located on Koshlong Lake, Wanakita offers summer camps for kids, family camps, and year-round programs for people of all ages. For more information, visit www.ymcahbb.ca/camps/ymca-wanakita.

Top: Camp Wanakita staff Gill van Velzen, Olivia Gerber Biggs and Sloan Clemie welcome visitors to Sunday's strawberry social. Middle left: Live music was provided throughout the day by Irish-style band Celtic Jam. Bottom left: Visitors escaped the sweltering heat to enjoy a buffet meal inside YWCA Wanakita's great hall. Right: Guests Nick and Susan Bryant enjoy a strawberry dessert. *Photos by Steve Sherwood.*

WEEKEND

EVENTS

A wet one for Water Ambassadors Canada

It was a rainy June 19 at Blairhampton Golf Course as 84 golfers took to the links for the 13th annual Water Ambassadors Canada charity golf classic. They featured an all-Canadian theme this year, with holes sponsored by, and promoting, local businesses. 'Water needs' information holes were interspersed. In turn, WAC purchased gift cards and certificates from the businesses as prizes and draws for the golfers. They are hoping to use the funds raised this year for well repairs in Honduras, chlorinators in Colombia, and a well drill in Guatemala. WAC Canada is a registered Canadian charity founded in Haliburton 23 years ago. They drill and repair wells, install filtration and chlorination systems, and teach hygiene. They have worked in more than 20 countries. "We have helped give clean drinking water to half a million people," spokesman Barry Hart said. "We deeply appreciate the support that we have received from the community."

Left: Brian Johns holds a Water Ambassadors Canada golf ball. Top right: Kolt Smith, Kody Smith, Adam DeCarlo and Jordan Joanu at the putting contest. Bottom right: Allison Perecko, Heather Alloway and Klara Oyler check golfers in. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

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MASTERCLASSES

RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASSES
Tuesday, July 29th | 7:30-9:00pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

OPERAS

LET'S MAKE OPERA! *Workshops*
Be the first to hear 3 NEW SHORT CANADIAN OPERAS based on stories from Haliburton County.Supported in full by the ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION.
Saturday, August 9th | 7:30-9:00pm
Entrance by DONATION

LOVE & BETRAYAL
1. LA VOIX HUMAINE - Francis Poulenc
A woman's last conversation with her former lover.
Featuring tenor, PATRICIA YATES
(French w/English Surtitles)
2. Scenes exploring themes of love & betrayal. Visit website for casting and program details. Thursday, August 14th | 7:30-9:00pm

THE MERRY WIDOW - Franz Lehar
In this hilarious operetta a wealthy widow is pursued by a multitude of suitors interested in her fortune.
August 21st, 23rd, 25th | 7:30-10:00pm
Pre-performance chat @6:30pm
August 24th | 2:00-4:30pm
(Opera in English; suitable for all ages)
All operas presented at Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton

CONCERTS

#1: OPERA TO BROADWAY
Thursday, July 31st | 7:30-9:00pm

#2: POP GOES THE OPERA!
Thursday, August 7th | 7:30-9:00pm

#3: HOMECOMING:
HOS ALUMNI IN CONCERT
Monday, August 18th | 7:30-9:00pm

All concerts presented at St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN EVENTS:

#1: WHY CHOOSE OPERA?
Tuesday, August 5th | 7:30-8:45pm
Check website for location

#2: CASUAL SONG SOIRÉE
Tuesday, August 12th | 7:30-8:45pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

#3: MUSIC ON THE WATER
Saturday, August 16th | 6:00-7:00pm
Fairfield Bay, Mountain Lake, Minden
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